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Daily Report

Soviet Union

FBIS-SOV-88-158
Tuesday
16 August 1988

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FBIS-SOV-88-158 *16 August 1988*

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PRAVDA on Proposals at Geneva Session

LD1508102388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "At the Geneva Talks"]

[Text] Geneva, 13 Aug—The delegation at the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space weapons held a plenary meeting last week at the request of the Soviet side. During the meeting, the Soviet side gave a substantial assessment of the situation at the talks, both at the strategic arms group and at the space weapons group. The Soviet delegation resolutely favored imparting greater dynamism to work and focusing the sides' efforts on solving outstanding problems, thus ensuring the maximum possible progress at the talks.

The Soviet side took a new, constructive step and made a number of concrete proposals for inclusion in the draft protocol on inspections. The Soviet proposals build upon considerations expressed earlier by the U.S. delegation, and thereby ensure a mutually acceptable solution to a number of issues, including such an important aspect of verification as permanent observation on the perimeter and at the portals of facilities manufacturing strategic offensive weapons. [This and following additions and variations are reported by Moscow TASS in English at 1131 GMT on 13 August in a similar item on the Geneva meeting. The TASS version renders the preceding sentence: "The Soviet proposals build upon considerations, expressed earlier by the U.S. delegation, including such an important aspect of verification as permanent observation on the perimeter and at the portals of facilities manufacturing strategic offensive weapons."]

The Soviet delegation is in favor of strict verification measures being applied to all types of strategic offensive weapons which will be covered by the future treaty, including ICBM's, SLBM's, heavy bombers, and air- and sea-launched long-range cruise missles. Naturally, in coordinating verification measures the specifics of weapons involved and limitations to be put on them must be taken into account. The Soviet delegation again urged the American side to make full use of the potential of experts to find a solution to the relevant issues within the framework of a special working subgroup on verification, set up at the previous round of talks. [The TASS version adds: "In this connection the Soviet side expressed readiness to continue considering—in the context of obligations taken—the range of initial data, which the sides would exchange to verify compliance with the treaty, which is being currently drafted. The need was stressed again for the American side finally to enter into business-like discussion of the far-reaching and thoroughly drafted Soviet proposals on the verification of limitations of long-range SLCMs.

["Discussions continued within the framework of the strategic offensive weapons group of the sides's formulas—as part of efforts to implement Moscow accords—on the questions of long-range ALCMS and heavy bombers."]

Regrettably, no progress has been made at the Geneva talks on the question of working out a draft treaty on observance and nonwithdrawal from the ABM Treaty. Progress here is still hampered by the position of the American side which seeks to modify the well-known Washington formula in the spirit of the so-called "broad" interpretation of the ABM treaty, but which in actual fact amounts to undermining this treaty. [The TASS version adds: "At the same time the preservation of the ABM Treaty is a necessary element for a 50 per cent cut in strategic offensive weapons."]

PRAVDA on Missile Site Inspections in FRG

PM1608093188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Inspections Completed"]

[Text] Bonn, 15 Aug—The four Soviet inspection groups which arrived in the FRG to conduct inspections in accordance with the provisions of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles completed their work Sunday. They inspected missiles, launchers, and a number of other installations on the U.S. bases at Neu-Ulm and Heilbronn, where Pershing-2 missiles are sited, as well as at the missile store at Weilerbach and the missile technical servicing center in the region of Frankfurt-Hausen.

The Soviet experts were accompanied by representatives of U.S. troops, as well as of the FRG Armed Forces. The unanimous opinion was expressed that mutual on-site inspections help strengthen trust between the USSR and the United States and between East and West in general, as well as help strengthen peace in Europe.

These inspections have concluded the first stage of the inspections in the FRG provided for in the Treaty on Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles. Two groups of experts from the USSR had already been to the FRG in July, visiting military installations at Wueschheim and Mutlangen.

UK Missile 'Maneuvers' Encounter Protest

LD1508220088 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The methods of deploying cruise missile launchers based in Greenham Common have been practiced once again in Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire. This is what Sergey Sayenko writes:

The British news media have disregarded the exercises, probably because they were conducted at a time when the world press were full of reports that the Soviet Union had begun to destroy its medium-range missiles, in compliance with the INF Treaty signed with the United States. It isn't ruled out that the cruise missiles were dispatched from the Greenham Common base to the area of exercises in the dead of night to avoid publicity. But despite the measures of precaution, the attempts to conceal maneuvers from the public failed. The antiwar organization Cruise Watch staged a demonstration in Wiltshire. The outcome of that legitimate protest was (?sad): The police detained 50 demonstrators. The only thing British peace campaigners were guilty for was their cause for ending the dangerous games with nuclear installations and a reminder that the American Tomahawk cruise missiles sited at Greenham Common and Molesworth bases were subject to elimination under the Soviet-American INF Treaty.

The maneuvers with cruise missiles reminded the British public also of the fact that the Conservative government planned to deploy air-based and sea-based cruise missiles and increase the number of nuclear capable F-111 fighter bombers deployed in Britain. The Treaty on Eliminating Medium-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles that went into effect, has inspired all people on the globe, including Britain, with the hope that humanity began to move towards a world free from nuclear arms. The INF Treaty is just the beginning of this process, of course, and much will have to be done yet. Nevertheless, the Tory government firmly adheres to its concept of nuclear deterrence. Witness the recent exercises for a deployment of cruise missile launchers.

'Clash' Approaching in U.S. on ABM Treaty

PM1508140888 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[Vitaliy Gan article under the rubric "Comment From a Correspondent": "The Clash Approaches"]

[Text] Washington, 14 Aug—A letter has arrived at the White House, signed by 42 senators, indicating clearly that in Washington's corridors of power a head-on clash is approaching between the opponents and supporters of arms control. If this clash actually occurs, it will be over the stepping up of attempts by the "hawks" in the U.S. Administration to derail the Soviet-American ABM Treaty.

The attempt to undermine this key element in the overall structure of measures to curb the arms race has been under way for a long time here. Although people on the Potomac never tire of trying to convince the world that SDI is "humane" in nature, these arguments can only be intended for the gullible. After all, since the ABM Treaty categorically bans the militarization of space, why seek its annulment, one wonders? Is not this an acknowledgement that the "peaceful" "Strategic Defense Initiative" will in fact mean the militarist exploitation of the vast reaches of space?

Approximately 2 years ago the ideologists and apologists of "Star Wars" hinted that going into battle with an open visor is a risky thing to do. They decided to put the blame for "undermining" the ABM Treaty onto... the Soviet Union.

No sooner said than done. Ignoring the USSR's most authoritative statements and the testimonies of America's own officials, they set about blackening the Soviet Union for building a radar installation in the Krasnoyarsk region for tracking objects in space. Much has already been written about this.

It is well known that a special Soviet-American commission exists to settle mutual complaints with regard to the treaty, and it is to hold a session on 24 August. Anticipating its results, the White House decided to carry out psychological indoctrination of the public beforehand. In the first instance they approached this in a roundabout way, reporting that U.S. military experts still regard the construction of the radar as a "material violation" of the ABM Treaty. Then the press started writing about "fierce disputes"—whether or not to accept the Pentagon's arguments. Finally they declared that the White House has shown prudence and does not want to put the question point-blank for the time being. As its spokesman M. Fitzwater announced, President Reagan has sent a personal message to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, once again emphasizing the "antitreaty nature" of the Krasnoyarsk radar.

The 42 senators who sent the letter to the White House, grasping the meaning of the game being played, called on the President "to take no steps to freeze or cease compliance with the ABM Treaty." Advising Reagan to "reject" this course of action, the 37 Democrats and 5 Republicans stated: "Now that the first missiles are being destroyed in accordance with the recently ratified Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles and progress has occurred at the strategic arms talks, this is no time to change course on arms control."

The moment to step up the attack on the ABM Treaty was not chosen by chance. As the rule of the present administration—the "zealous friend" of SDI—draws to a close, lobbyists for the program would like to present the next administration with a fait accompli in the form of the removal of all restraints on the military penetration of space. The motives are plain to see—not only crazy money, but also the annihilation of all possibility of alleviating the nuclear burden.

UN Group Demands Puerto Rican Self-Determination
LD1608073088 Moscow TASS in English 0711 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] New York August 16 TASS—By TASS correspondent Nikolay Maslov:

On Monday the U.N. Special Committee on Decolonization started a debate on the issue of Puerto Rico, which has the status of a self-governing entity in association with the USA.

The speakers at the session of the special committee persistently demand that the Puerto Rican people be allowed to decide their destiny themselves. The numerous examples cited by the petitioners, representatives of various political parties and public organizations are evidence of the repressions against the fighters for independence. They are convincing proof that the inalienable right of the peoples to self-determination recognized by a majority of the U.N. member-states is flouted by the USA, which has turned Puerto Rico into a colonial and exploited land.

A mammoth meeting was held outside the headquarters of the international community in support of the rights of the Puerto Rican people. Addressing the meeting, public and political figures and students representing Puerto Rico demanded that an end be put once and for all to the colonial system in their home country.

Meeting on Cambodia Convenes in Harare
LD1508183088 Moscow TASS in English 1807 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Harare August 15 TASS—A conference on the political settlement of the situation around Kampuchea opened here today. It is attended by representatives of the Kampuchean Government and the three Khmer sides, of Cuba, India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Zimbabwe and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The conference will continue consultations held recently in New Delhi, and Bogor, Indonesia, on a peaceful and mutually acceptable settlement of the Kampuchean problem, as well as the role to be played in this process by non-aligned countries. The conference will last for three days.

Eskimo Group Leader Comments on Moscow Visit
LD1208203488 Moscow TASS in English 2000 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 12 TASS—The ICC Organization is for cooperation between Eskimos of Greenland, the Soviet Union, Canada and Alaska (USA). Cooperation, both cultural and economic, should develop, said Mary Simon, president of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC). She heads a delegation of this organization staying here at the invitation of the USSR Central Council of Trade Unions. The delegation consists of representatives of the USA, Canada and Greenland.

During a meeting with Yuriy Maslyukov, alternate member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, the sides came to the conclusion that problems agitating Eskimos of the four countries are similar, Mary Simon told TASS. These are establishment of a peace zone in the Arctic with a healthy environment and favourable conditions for human life. The Eskimos have always depended on products of land and sea. Therefore, they want to preserve wildlife and nature as it has always been. It was confirmed at the meeting that a Soviet delegation from the Chukchi Peninsula would attend the general assembly of the ICC Organization to be held in Greenland.

Further on 11 Aug Foreign Ministry Briefing
PM1508113588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 5

[G. Charodeyev "Briefing Reportage": "The Soviet Position Is Clear"]

[Text] A routine briefing at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center was addressed by USSR Deputy Foreign Minister A. Adamishin. He talked about the efforts being made by the Soviet Union to promote the talks between Angola, Cuba, and South Africa, with the United States acting as intermediary, on a settlement regarding the situation in Namibia.

Although the Soviet Union is not directly involved in the quadripartite talks, he said, we are actively trying to influence them in order to bring about a successful conclusion as soon as possible. The USSR is in constant contact on this matter with the Angolan and Cuban sides. Frequent, detailed discussions are held with the United States, with whom there are points of contact to the effect that the conflict is susceptible to a political settlement and it must be solved by political means.

A. Adamishin further stated:

"I want to say a few words about guarantees. The Soviet Union has already said in response to the appeal made to it that it is prepared to guarantee a future agreement, including backing such possibilities as the active involvement of all five permanent members of the UN Security Council or the entire Security Council in it. A just agreement would be reached."

Answering a question put by your IZVESTIYA correspondent, the deputy foreign minister noted: Our differences of opinion with the Americans include the problem of solving Angolan internal issues. The United States considers itself able to call upon the Luanda Government to commence a dialogue with Savimbi. It also considers that the absence of this would hinder the situation as far as the elaboration of the accords currently being discussed at the quadripartite talks is concerned. The Soviet side sticks to the view that if a settlement is reached that removes the external conditions for interference in Angolan internal affairs and South African and U.S. aid to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola grouping ceases, the Angolans themselves will be able to solve their own internal problems.

Now for the Cuban forces. It is a question of relations between two sovereign states. The Cubans went to Angola not to participate in an internal conflict that exists between Angolans, but to defend the country's security against aggressive assaults by South Africa that have been going on constantly and endlessly for 13 years.

The briefing was continued by V. Perfilyev, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, who commented on reports that have been circulating in recent weeks to the effect that the Soviet Union has been burying radioactive waste in Benin. Unfortunately, some international organizations have reproduced these claims in their official publications. These claims are typical examples of disinformation.

Once again we categorically reject these insinuations and confirm in all seriousness that the Soviet Union has never buried any radioactive waste in Benin or any other country.

P. Laptev, assistant to the USSR general prosecutor for international law matters, commented on the speculation by certain Western news agencies in connection with the expulsion of P. Ayrikyan from the USSR. This act, he stressed, accords with Soviet laws and with international law, since all P. Ayrikyan's activities since the early seventies have been anticonstitutional, antistate, and illegal.

United States & Canada

Reagan Convention Speech Attacks Democrats

LD1608072088 Moscow TASS in English 0710 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] New Orleans August 16 TASS—The speech by President Reagan provided the highlight of the first day of the National Republican Convention in New Orleans.

In his speech, the president heaped praise on the eight-year rule by the Republican administration and attacked Democrats accusing them of nearly every trouble in America. It followed from Reagan's speech that the return of Democrats to power would lead to a rise in inflation, unemployment and other economic calamities. At the same time, he asserted that the election of George Bush as U.S. president will bring to America prosperity, "new possibilities" and confidence in the future.

The American press calls Reagan the best weapon of the Republicans in the struggle to retain control over the White House. His speech at the congress, broadcast by all U.S. TV companies, was addressed not only to the delegates of the Republican Convention but also to the entire country. This was the call to America to elect George Bush as his successor. George Bush will be elected on Wednesday as official candidate of the Republican Party to the post of U.S. president.

Republicans Complete Draft of Party Platform

LD1508121288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0430 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The U.S. Republican Party Convention opens in New Orleans today. Our special correspondent, Vladimir Gerasichev, reports:

[Gerasichev] The convention's opening ceremony and elections to its working commissions and committees will take place today. Work was completed yesterday on the draft of the Republican Party political platform. Republicans today are saying with pride that their platform is much larger than the Democratic platform and that it defines the directions of U.S. domestic and foreign policies more specifically and in greater detail. [passage omitted] The Republican platform is to be approved at the convention, but even now one can say that many things in this draft put one on one's guard. The further development of relations with the Soviet Union, for example, is made dependent on numerous demands and conditions. The authors of the draft have patently taken aim at interference in our country's internal affairs, and not only ours. For example, the draft also makes provision for granting military aid to the Nicaraguan contras. Acknowledging the importance of the historic treaty to scrap intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, the prospects for further progress at the talks on nuclear and space arms are made dependent on unilateral concessions by the Soviet Union. It looks as if the Republican leaders are presenting their party with an even more conservative platform than that adopted in 1980.

Tower Cited on Platform

PM1508133388 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Own correspondent A. Shalnev dispatch: "USA: Republicans Setting Markers"]

[Text] New Orleans— It is said that if the Republicans gain victory in the November presidential elections, John Tower, former senator from Texas and current leader of the strategic arms group of the U.S. delegation to the Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms, could be appointed secretary of defense.

This, as a matter of fact, was why I asked him to comment on the provisions of the Republican Party's election platform concerning defense and foreign policy questions. The platform was confirmed on Friday [12 August] at the latest session of the Platform Committee of the Republican Convention, which is due to open 15 August.

According to John Tower, the main point is that "we are relying strongly on the Strategic Defense Initiative. This is a very important aspect of our election platform." At the same time, the [former] senator went on, "we have spoken out in favor of progress in the arms control talks and specifically of progress as regards reduction of strategic arms and progress in the conventional arms sphere."

A few explanations are in order. The platform's adoption by this committee means that it will be automatically confirmed by the convention. Delegates will simply rubberstamp it without lengthy discussions.

Even though the committee consists of just over 100 members, the platform could be described as the brainchild of only a handful of people—G. Bush and his closest advisers. On his arrival in New Orleans, the vice president delivered a speech which was essentially a briefing. The speech and backstage conversations formulated the positions which Bush would like to see in the election platform.

These positions have been fully taken into account. True enough, Bush also took into account the wishes expressed by various groupings within the Republican movement, and primarily the right-wing groupings whose support, as CBS-TV noted, the vice president needs in particular in his struggle for the seat in the White House.

The key slogan of the foreign policy and defense sections of the Republicans' election platform is formulated in its title: "Peace From a Position of Strength—A Proven

Policy." Since it has been proven, it ought to be further developed. Hence, the commitment to the "Strategic Defense Initiative" which, as the platform says, "is the most important contribution to the country's future security" and which must "be deployed soon and with utmost certainty." Hence, the intention "to implement a program for modernizing the strategic nuclear arsenal" and the determination to complete the program for expanding the Navy to 600 warships, including 15 aircraft carrier task forces.

Hence, also the persistent desire to speed up work on improving conventional arms technology.

As regards Soviet-U.S. relations, the following passage is noteworthy: "The Republicans will continue to work with the new Soviet leadership. But the conditions for the development of relations will depend on how certain fundamental principles are implemented, such as civil and religious rights in the Soviet Union, economic reform in the Soviet Union, cessation of the Soviet Union's support for communist regimes, radical groups, and terrorists," and so on and so forth.

Recommendations as to what the Soviet Union should do and how it should do it in order to gain Washington's favors are interlaced with categorical promises of support for the Nicaraguan contras and the armed opposition forces in Afghanistan.

I think that the following question is perfectly in order: If the Republicans gain victory, will their election platform become a program for the new administration's actions? Or is this platform just a tactical concession to the Republican Party's right wing?

Bogdanov Views U.S. Election Prospects

PM1608101888 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 13 Aug 88 p 10

[Interview with R.G. Bogdanov, deputy director of the United States of America and Canada Institute, by Ezio Mauro in Moscow; date not given]

[Text] Moscow—"As far as I am concerned the picture is clear: Bush will lose, the Democrats will win, the Republicans will leave the White House, and the man we will have to deal with is none other than Michael Dukakis."

In shirtsleeves, American-style, Radomir Georgiyevich Bogdanov looked at the blue file in which every evening he inserts the printouts from the Moscow computer that follows the U.S. campaign step by step, glanced at the diary in which he has summarized all the reports he weekly receives from Washington, and pointed to the reports prepared by the group of analysts that have kept a close watch on Dukakis' and Bush's every move since January. It was like opening for the first time a ship's log of an extraordinary Soviet voyage around the mystery of the post-Reagan era—an attempt to understand the making of an American president from this vantage point off Kalinin Avenue, where the United States of America and Canada Institute is located. Bogdanov is the institute's deputy director. He heads the Dukakis team, which reads, records, files, and deciphers every word of the speeches delivered by the Democratic candidate and which keeps a very up-to-date diary of his rallies and even his most insignificant meetings.

He said: "I once called one of the girls in the group at night while she was asleep. She recited for me all of Dukakis' appointments for the following day, as though she were his secretary. This is the first time we have followed the U.S. campaign so closely." It must be true, judging from what I saw from the first moment I entered the room where the "group" meets: The shelves carried not only the telephone directory for Boston—the "capital" of the Dukakis venture—but also the yellow pages and even the three supplements for Boston North, South, and West.

[Mauro] Dr Bogdanov, how and when did the Soviet Union discover Dukakis?

[Bogdanov] A year ago, by accident. To tell you the truth, at that time I was receiving some rather cool reports about the governor of Massachusetts, about his presidential ambitions, and, above all, about his chances. In June 1987, however, in Boston, Dukakis made his first major attempt to raise funds for his campaign. His official target was $1 million and he easily reached $2 million. That seemed to me an impressive result for someone with no chances, and I told our specialists to consult the computer.

[Mauro] What could a computer in Moscow know?

[Bogdanov] It confirmed my suspicions: In the past 20 years no Democratic candidate anywhere has ever collected as much money in his first attempt. So I told my staff that that Dukakis had to be followed a little more closely.

[Mauro] Did what you discovered persuade you that he could win?

[Bogdanov] It made us realize that if the Democrats win they will be new Democrats—not the ones we used to know—people who represent a new America tired of Reaganism.

[Mauro] Did you expect this rapid decline of Reaganism after Reagan?

[Bogdanov] No. All the analyses, reports, and investigations said that the election would be won by the party capable of guaranteeing wealth and development. From this viewpoint, the Republicans seemed to be in a winning position because inflation is low, productivity is increasing, and all the signs are in their favor. However, the opinion polls show that the voters are leaning toward the Democrats. It is an exception to the rule—a sign that something is changing.

[Mauro] Does that mean that the dollar is no longer a decisive factor in the vote?

[Bogdanov] I can predict that the rate on the dollar will increase considerably even before November. Indeed I have a suspicion that Japan and Germany want to help the Republicans greatly. The dollar has risen a great deal recently already and is improving precisely thanks to help from Tokyo and Bonn. As far as I am concerned, this is clear support for Bush. However, I do not know whether this will now be enough to win the election.

[Mauro] Does the USSR not risk helping Bush with the fifth Reagan-Gorbachev summit?

[Bogdanov] I will be frank with you: We have become so realistic and pragmatic that we think about pursuing our own policy and do not worry about who will benefit or suffer from our moves. Let the Americans decide. We will work with Reagan and the Republicans to the last. Gorbachev has already said that he is willing to meet immediately with the new president, whoever he may be. Of course we too are holding discussions to see whether Bush or Dukakis would suit us better. These are internal discussions, however, and purely academic.

[Mauro] Do you mean that your realpolitik extends as far as not choosing between the liberal Dukakis and the conservative Republicans?

[Bogdanov] You see, we have had dealings with both Republican and Democratic presidents and have encountered difficulties in both cases. In fact the problems have been greater with the Democrats, though I believe that almost everything has changed now.

[Mauro] In what way?

[Bogdanov] Insofar as we and our policy have changed. Let us take the case of regional conflicts: This has always been a difficult subject to broach with the Republicans—but because we were unwilling to do so. Now, following our withdrawal from Afghanistan, everything is different. And what about human rights? With the Democrats this was always a thorny problem and a painful one for us. However, having said that we are at last willing to discuss it; what difference does it make whether it is with a Republican or a Democrat?

[Mauro] Some months ago, however, following a meeting with a group of American senators, it was said that Gorbachev hoped for a victory by Bush. How much truth is there in this?

[Bogdanov] Gorbachev knows Bush personally, has seen him four times, and has had a very fruitful private meeting with him. I can say that the human rapport established between the two is not bad. Such things are of no political value, however. Gorbachev is willing to work with any American president, and this is what counts.

[Mauro] Is it true that the man you would miss most in the event of a Democratic victory is George Shultz?

[Bogdanov] Shultz has a very good personal rapport with Shevardnadze, and with Gorbachev, too. He is a secretary of state of a very high caliber, one of the best ever. He has nothing to fear from a change of administration because he already has a place in history.

[Mauro] Dr Bogdanov, is there not a little too much sadness on the Soviets' part over the Reaganites' departure?

[Bogdanov] No sadness. Moreover, we know that U.S. politics make up a complex mechanism and in any case it will be necessary to maintain relations with all parts of this mechanism, with all its components, though we cannot yet say who will be in the White House and who will be out.

[Mauro] Could you hazard a forecast?

[Bogdanov] I have a clear impression, though a few accidents would be enough to alter everything. As things stand, however, Dukakis will win.

[Mauro] Are you ready for this?

[Bogdanov] To be frank, few of us know him personally. However, we are well- acquainted, really well-acquainted, with the people around him—the so-called Harvard group. We have formed our opinion through them.

[Mauro] What is that opinion?

[Bogdanov] Our pictures show a very good, efficient, and active governor capable of healthy economic management and with great popularity among the people of his state. Perhaps the picture shows that candidate Dukakis is slightly weak in foreign policy. But was Reagan an expert when he became president? And what about Carter? Any president must first have a good secretary of state and a good national security adviser. He has to contribute realism, a rational approach, and a good political instinct.

[Mauro] Dr Bogdanov, when will you visit Washington or Boston?

[Bogdanov] Not before January. It would be pointless. The Americans come here anyway—some weeks even three of them a day.

[Mauro] What does your computer say: Will Dukakis get along with Gorbachev?

[Bogdanov] This is very difficult to predict because the sphere of human relations is unfathomable. However, the two are more or less the same age, are not preppies, and both have cultural interests. So there is a foundation. In any case whom should we fear after Reagan? We got along with him, and we will do so with Dukakis, too.

Polls Seen as Unreliable Election Predictors

PM1508112388 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent A. Shalnev dispatch under the rubric "Ups and Downs in Presidential Election Marathon": "Election Without Certainty"]

[Text] New York—Another opinion poll, another disappointment for George Bush. If we believe the results of research recently carried out on the instructions of THE NEW YORK TIMES and the CBS television company, the number of voters well disposed toward Bush as the future head of the White House is far smaller than the contender would wish. The attitude toward Michael Dukakis, official candidate for the Democratic Party, is quite different: The number of his well-wishers is double that of those dissatisfied with him.

The survey also confirmed another trend: The growing belief among Americans that it is the Democrats who are able and willing to help the middle class. Almost 85 percent of the respondents put themselves in this class.

It seems that in the last few months there has not been a single poll which has put George Bush in the lead. What does this signify? Not very much, apparently.

History has known cases where gigantic leaps ahead recorded at the summer stage of the election marathon have trailed away to nothing by November and election day. This was the case, for example, in 1948, when Thomas Dewey had a 13-percent lead over Harry Truman, the incumbent at the time who was running for re-election, but lost on the day of decision.

The difference in popularity must inevitably be reduced when, following the Democrats, who increased Dukakis's prestige with a lavish convention show in Atlanta, the Republicans hold their own national forum in New Orleans—an equally impressive affair which is also calculated primarily to give the voters a sharp, clear picture of the merits of their candidate for the U.S. presidential chair.

It is expected that soon after their convention the Republicans will resort to their most powerful weapon—Ronald Reagan—who, for the most diverse reasons, has not played a particularly active role in the election campaign so far. The authority and popularity of the current head of the White House will be needed in the west, in California. Many experts, including people like former President Nixon, believe that this will ultimately decide the battle between Bush and Dukakis.

That is why I feel that polls are polls and do not shed any real light on the subject. In this respect it is worth pointing out that having spoken in favor of Dukakis and the Democrats and once again having expressed lack of confidence in Bush and the Republicans, American voters virtually nullified their opinion in the next breath. When they were asked whether they feel that the candidates do not say what they believe but only what they think the voters want to hear, the voters were almost unanimous in their response: Yes, they do feel that—about Bush and about Dukakis.

So how can they make a choice?

China

U.S. Sincerity on Regional Issues Questioned

OW1608014988 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 4 Aug 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Among the news received by this station's editorial department, reports from the XINHUA news agency caught our attention. A spokesman for the PRC Foreign Ministry expressed regret over the U.S. Senate passage a few days ago of an amendment introduced by Senator Dole. We would like to address our listeners' attention to the following facts:

Senator Dole's amendment calls on China to stop selling weapons to Middle Eastern countries because such sales might destabilize the region. The senator even suggests that if China does not stop such sales, the United States will re-examine U.S.-Chinese relations. Here, we clearly see that even today, when new thinking is gradually prevailing in the international arena, the United States still [words indistinct] acts as an international judge, and uses sanctions as a means to threaten those who do not listen to it.

Against such a background, let us talk about another issue: Whether or not the United States is sincere in expressing anxiety over sales of weapons to the world's hot spots. We might understand U.S. anxiety if it sets a good example for others regarding this issue. However, the United States is far from this. Take the Middle East, for example. The extremely dangerous situation in the Middle East is attributed to the U.S. sale of great volumes of weapons to Israel, and such a dangerous situation [words indistinct]. The United States has not changed its policy. It plans to provide its strategic ally with $1.3 billion in military aid in fiscal year 1989. This action will only make the already fierce Arab-Israeli conflict even fiercer.

How about the Afghan situation? The U.S. policy toward this regional conflict cannot be regarded as a [word indistinct] policy. In fact, the United States not only fails to stop selling weapons to the Afghan opposition but also breaches the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. It continues to supply weapons at an increasing rate to the Afghan reactionaries. As a result, the cruel war between brothers continues on disaster-stricken Afghan soil, and people continue to bleed.

From the aforementioned facts and evidence, we can easily draw a conclusion on whether the United States is sincere when it expresses, in the Dole Amendment, anxiety over weapons sales to Middle East countries. [Words indistinct] the U.S. Senate passed the amendment when the Security Council was discussing the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by a U.S. cruiser. Most nations maintained that the tragedy in the Persian Gulf was a direct result of U.S. adventurist policy. The presence of U.S. naval forces in the region is the root cause of the dangerous and tense situation.

Obviously, while giving other nations instructions on what to do and what not to do, the United States itself adheres to the philosophy of doing whatever it likes. Although the Iranian passenger plane was tragically shot down, the U.S. Government termed its Middle East policy as wise and correct. Therefore, the U.S. policy is by no means a temporary one.

Currently, the settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict is possible. Eliminating foreign military presence, especially the U.S. forces, in the Persian Gulf will certainly contribute to its progress. If the U.S. Senate is really concerned about peace in the region, why does it not pass an amendment on withdrawing U.S. warships from the Persian Gulf? If the United States really takes such a step, it will certainly be welcomed by nations all over the world.

Sino-Soviet Consular Agreement Assessed

OW1608074988 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Glebov commentary]

[Text] A new agreement signed between the Soviet and Chinese Governments on mutual visits of citizens between the two countries comes into effect on 14 August.

In this connection, our station commentator Glebov notes:

Listeners and friends, first I want to bring to your attention the fact that the agreement has provided the citizens of both countries with the latest conveniences in direct exchange of visits. The agreement stipulates that citizens of one country can visit the other country on official business without a visa, and that it matters not what kind of passport—diplomatic, service, or just official business—an official may hold. Elimination of the visa system will undoubtedly provide great convenience in mutual exchanges, particularly in fields where the cooperation between our two countries is vigorously expanding. The contacts between scientists, experts, personnel in the waterway, railway, and aviation transportation departments, and college students and professors are expanding. From now on, they can make field trips or official visits to each other's country with greater convenience.

It was only yesterday that the visa system was still restricting border trade and economic cooperation between our two countries. When a special correspondent of this station interviewed a leader of a border region in Khabarovsk, a cadre of a border fish supply and marketing cooperative, and a waterway transport worker on the Amur River, they all expressed dissatisfaction over the past system. They complained: Each time we make a big deal in border trade with China's Heilongjiang Province, we have to fly to Moscow to get our visa. During a visit to the Uzbek SSR, this reporter also heard similar complaints. Uzbekistan has been doing a great deal of border trade with China's Xinjiang region in recent years. Elimination of the visa system will remove some of the obstacles which have hindered border trade, for further expansion.

Aflanenko, first deputy chief of the Consular Administration of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, talked about his views of the new government agreement. He said:

[Begin Aflanenko recording in Russian fading into Mandarin translation] The coming into effect of the agreement is indeed an important step in further expanding Soviet-Chinese consular relations. The agreement is in line with the Soviet policy of simplifying procedures for visits of citizens of socialist nations. [end recording]

When I asked this authoritative person about future prospects for Soviet-Chinese consular relations, he said:

[Begin Aflanenko recording in Russian fading into Mandarin translation] Looking into the future, we have to mention the new steps to be taken in perfecting Soviet-Chinese consular relations. Documents to be examined and discussed include a treaty on legal protection, an agreement on the prevention of dual nationality, and others. The Soviet Union and China will hold a third round of talks on consular affairs in the Soviet Union. As you already know, the first and second round of talks were held in 1985. Matters on the agenda include establishing additional consulates in both countries. [end recording]

Border Officials Resolve Differences

OW1608035288 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0300 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Text] The USSR and China are pursuing important missions that are similar to a certain extent. They are social reforms which affect political, economic, and all aspects of life. To accomplish these missions, the two countries need peace and unity. It also requires the leaders of the two countries [words indistinct] to settle issues existing between the two countries, including issues left over by history. These issues have now been placed on the agenda. Resolving the Soviet-Chinese border dispute is one of these issues. Our objectives are clear-cut and resolute. We do not wish to see the border along the Amur River become some kind of obstacle. Let us ensure that this great river region becomes the force that unites the people of China and the USSR. We hope we can soon say that the border which separates us has become a peace and friendship region that unites us. These are the words of CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev in a speech made in Vladivostok 2 years ago. What is the situation along the Soviet-Chinese border today? In this connection, our station reporters Yaripov and Smytaniyev interviewed two military officers of the Soviet Far East border region, Lutik and Sakhno.

Lutik said: The situation along the Soviet-Chinese border is gradually getting into line with the aspirations of the CPSU Central Committee political report to the 27th CPSU Congress and CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev's speech in Vladivostok in the summer of 1986. First of all, the situation is moving toward normalization. There is no conflict nor serious difference of opinions between us. Many issues, such as economic issues along the border of the two countries and border control systems, have been settled by local officials stationed in the border regions.

Sakhno said: Soviet border guards have been doing their best to bring normality to the border, and they wish to see the Amur River region along the border with China become a peace and friendship region for the peoples of the two countries. As everyone knows, we are very happy to learn that during the second round of border talks at the national level, the USSR and China made a great step forward in this respect. The second round of talks was held in Beijing in August last year in a peaceful and pragmatic atmosphere. The two countries believe that these talks are meaningful because they improve mutual understanding toward gradually settling the border issue. The talks enable the Far East border guards to optimistically hope for a settlement of the USSR-China border issue.

In reply to a question on whether there have been any changes in the border control system, Lutik stated: Soviet residents along the border are beginning to feel the normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations. Recently, economic activities along the Amur and Wusuli Rivers have been expanding. The number of cooperatives engaged in fishing, farming, and animal husbandry has been increasing. These are the results of the general improvement in relations between the two countries, and they have a favorable impact on normalization along the Soviet-Chinese border.

Sakhno noted: To develop border trade, we have opened up two border checkpoints at Blagoveshchensk and Leninskoye. Working together with China's Heihe and Tongjiang, merchandise of the two countries have passed through the two checkpoints. I believe that further expansion of border trade with China will strengthen the traditional friendship between the peoples of the two countries. There is a lot of potential to develop cultural ties along the border regions of Khabarovsk and to improve mutual understanding.

When the reporters inquired about the relations between the border guards of the two countries, Lutik said: Our relations with Chinese border guards are very good and have been useful in resolving various border issues. We hold discussions on issues, such as [words indistinct] when we have differing opinions. Other issues are also settled by border officials of the two countries. We would like to point out that of late, border guards of the two countries have often celebrated festive occasions and holidays together. I believe we should strengthen and expand these fine traditions and make further contributions toward better understanding and friendship between the two countries and their peoples.

Finally, young fighters are the ones who defend the national borders. They must fully understand that this is a mission entrusted to them by the country, and that they shoulder a very heavy responsibility. What have professional military officials and commanders in the Far East border region done in this respect? Lutik said: Of course we teach our border fighters to love and be loyal to the motherland first. It is the sacred duty of border guards to carry out their military obligations. While performing their military service, young border soldiers must be taught patriotism and internationalism and to conscientiously abide by regulations of the Soviet-Chinese border. Every border fighter must understand that his behavior and his activities while protecting the border have a direct bearing on the good-neighborly relations between the USSR and China. We tell our fighters that gunshots along borders have never brought honor to any fighter or country in the past or present and will never do so in the future. I firmly believe that our border fighters profoundly understand this point.

Eastern Soviet-Chinese Border Surveyed by Air

OW1608001688 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0600 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Dear listeners: The process of normalizing Soviet-Chinese relations has been accelerated in recent years. The volume of trade between the two countries has noticeably increased, and so have their contacts in the scientific, technological, cultural, and sports fields. Parliamentary relations between the two countries have also developed smoothly. Our two countries are holding political dialogue, including on the border issue. A reporter from this station filed a report from Khabarovsk on practical measures taken by the Soviet Union and China to determine the alignment of the Soviet-Chinese boundary and [words indistinct].

In accordance with a decision by the Soviet and Chinese Governments, aerial photography of the eastern section of the Soviet-Chinese border has been undertaken from the Soviet City of Khabarovsk and the Chinese City of Hailar for about 3 months, beginning 17 May this year. This is in preparation for determining the alignment of the Soviet-Chinese border in the future. Soviet experts have worked with a group of Chinese observers. The Chinese group has Song Guangzong, a senior engineer of the Military Topographic Survey and Mapping Bureau under the General Staff Department of the Chinese PLA, as its leader and Pi Chuankai, a chief navigator of the Chinese Air Force, as its deputy leader. Pi Chuankai and Major Shlyakhtin, commander of the aerial photography team, answered questions raised by the station reporter.

Pi Chuankai is asked: How do you appraise the joint work of Soviet and Chinese experts?

[Begin Pi Chuankai recording] We have been sent here by the Chinese Armed Forces to do aerial photography of the eastern section of the Sino-Soviet border together with our colleagues in the armed forces of your country, and we have already completed the task. We arrived in your country on 17 May, and were accorded courteous reception by your military. [Words indistinct] comrades of your country have provided us with favorable conditions for our work. I think both sides have done our work according to (?what we agreed on). Although there were differing views on our work, we conscientiously consulted with each other to find ways to solve problems. Your country has made good arrangements for us in daily life and has given us equal treatment. Sightseeing tours and recreational activities have also been arranged for us. From what I have just said, I believe that Chinese and Soviet experts have worked in a friendly atmosphere this time. The Soviet experts have worked conscientiously. Soviet pilots have strictly observed detailed rules and have accurately grasped flight problems, and the quality of their work is good. We Chinese personnel have also conscientiously upheld standards. [Words indistinct] Soviet comrades have also shown concern for our physical condition and daily life; and here, I would like to thank them for this. [end recording]

Major Shlyakhtin of the Soviet Union also responded to the same question as follows:

[Begin Shlyakhtin recording in Russian fading into Mandarin translation] Friendship and understanding have pervaded the process of our work with Chinese experts, and we together have strived to successfully accomplish the task assigned to us by our governments. [Words indistinct] I believe that the Chinese group was fully prepared for their task. Today, I want to say frankly that, when we first came here to carry out our special task, we felt we did not quite understand each other. It should be noted that there had been no contact between the armed forces of our two countries for many years. Of course, we want to understand the situation in China as much as possible, and to tell the Chinese experts about our country and our daily life. With the passage of time, very good mutual relations have been formed between us. We have reached mutual understanding and fostered friendship. I believe we have accomplished, with good quality, the task assigned to us by our governments. I think our Chinese comrades are also satisfied with the data we have collected during our joint efforts. [end recording]

The second question raised by the station reporter is: What do you think are the positive significance and prospects of your work? In answering this question, Pi Chuankai stated:

[Begin Pi Chuankai recording] Here, I would like to say something about the significance of our work. According to the requirements set by our government and armed forces for us, aerial photography of the eastern section of the Sino-Soviet border has been aimed at (?covering the topographic features of that section). The data we have collected by aerial photography will be used by the negotiating delegations of our two countries to determine the alignment of the Sino-Soviet border. [Words indistinct] we believe that the task we have worked together to carry out is of great significance. In addition to doing our work, we have also fostered friendship with our Soviet comrades. Our work has been done with a view to developing the friendship of the Chinese and Soviet people. [end recording]

The Soviet officer Shlyakhtin answers this same question as follows:

[Begin Shlyakhtin recording in Russian fading into Mandarin translation] Our two great countries should live in peace and in a good-neighborly way, making concerted efforts to surmount all difficulties. I believe further cooperation is very necessary. [end recording]

The development of Soviet-Chinese relations has been increasingly accelerated, and contacts between the two countries, including those designed to solve major political issues, have been increasingly expanded. Our country is ready to continue its advance in this regard. Just as General Secretary Gorbachev of the CPSU Central Committee pointed out in his Vladivostok speech, the Soviet Union is ready to earnestly discuss supplementary measures to create a good-neighborly atmosphere with China at any time and at any level. We hope our border will become a zone of peace and friendship in the not too distant future.

Friendship Delegation Welcomed in Moscow

OW1508125388 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0100 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] On 9 August, the Soviet House of Friendship received a delegation of activists of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship With Foreign Countries and the China-USSR Friendship Association headed by Li Zewang, vice president of the China-USSR Friendship Association. Famirnov, vice chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, welcomed the Chinese delegation. Through friendly conversations, both parties exchanged ideas on developing the contacts and activities between the friendship associations of the two countries. Seated on the occasion was Sutsav, vice chairman of the Soviet-Chinese Friendship Society, director of the Lenin Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, and correspondent academician of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Visits Alma-Ata

OW1608051388 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] A delegation of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association, led by Li Zewang, vice chairman of the association, arrived in Alma-Ata on 12 August. They were warmly welcomed by the Kazakhstan Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries. The meeting was held in an atmosphere of mutual understanding. After its arrival on 12 August, the Chinese delegation visited a high-altitude sports complex, a folk music museum, and a cotton textile mill in Alma-Ata. A station reporter reports that the Chinese delegation will go to Leningrad after Alma-Ata.

Talks End With PRC Publishing Delegation

LD1308220588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1950 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] A 3-day meeting between a delegation from the Chinese Province of Heilongjiang and representatives of the kray's publishing houses, printing enterprises, mass media organs, and creative unions has ended in Khabarovsk. Questions of bilateral cooperation in technological re-equipping of printing enterprises and business partnership, as well as joint supplies of raw material resources to printing bases were discussed.

PRC Participation in Exhibitions Hailed

OW1608014588 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 1400 GMT 2 Aug 88

[Dmitriyev commentary]

[Text] An international exhibition of light industry equipment and technology has opened in Moscow. Enterprises, organizations, and companies from 23 countries are displaying their newest achievements in developing advanced technology and equipment for producing consumer goods. The China Import and Export Company is taking part in the exhibition for the first time. Station observer Dmitriyev comments:

In the last few years, our two countries have become remarkably active in promoting cooperation in economy, trade, science, and technology. The increased participation in exhibitions held in each other's countries have also helped to promote cooperation in these fields.

Exchanges began in 1984. After a long interruption, the Soviet Union took part in an international exhibition of medical equipment held in Beijing in 1984. China participated in an international exhibition of machinery and equipment for daily use held in Moscow in 1985. In the same year, our country displayed its products at the fourth international fair of the Asian-Pacific region held in Beijing. At that time, the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade drafted an agreement on cooperation in organizing and holding international exhibitions. The agreement was signed in September 1985. Economic and trade exhibitions were separately held in Moscow and Beijing in 1986. The exhibitions deeply impressed both experts and ordinary visitors. Later, the two sides held many more exhibitions in each other's country. Currently, China is displaying its achievements in manufacturing light industry machinery at the 1988 International Exhibition of Light Industry Equipment and Technology in Moscow.

At a news conference on the eve of the opening of the exhibition, Khulestov, a representative of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, expressed his welcome to China's frequent participation in various international exhibitions held in the Soviet Union. Comrade Khulestov said: We regard the expansion of exchanges between the two countries in holding exhibitions as a major factor for developing mutually beneficial Soviet-Chinese trade relations and for strengthening Soviet-Chinese economic ties. This is particularly important today when both the Soviet Union and China are solving many similar problems concerning the acceleration of social and economic development.

Comrade Khulestov asserted: Currently, there is a good trend in development. For instance, the Chinese side not long ago suggested to us that exhibitions be held in Siberian and Far Eastern cities such as Khabarovsk, Nakhodka, Vladivostok, Irkutsk, Chita, Kemerovo, Krasnoyarsk, and Novosibirsk. We are studying the suggestion. We support it. It is very possible that the first such exhibition will be held in Vladivostok. The representative of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry Comrade Khulestov said: We are also preparing to make similar a suggestion on holding Soviet exhibitions in China's border cities.

PRAVDA Profiles PRC's Deng Xiaoping

PM1508114188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[B. Barakhta "Political Portrait": "Deng Xiaoping"]

[Text] It was 1 October 1984, the 35th anniversary of the formation of the PRC and the 6th year of the large scale reforms. The capital's Tiananmen Square was colorfully bedecked. For the first time in many years a military parade and a working people's demonstration was being held there.

Servicemen of the three combat arms marched with firm, measured tread. They were in brand new uniforms—for the first time since the sixties they had shoulder boards and insignia. The reforms had affected the Army, too, and not only externally. There was Chinese combat hardware on the square, and for the first time missile launchers were on parade—evidence of China's modernization accelerated during the reforms.

Then columns of demonstrators marched across the ancient cobblestones. Smiling faces, multicolored balloons, placards, and lots of children. Where were the blue and green uniforms of the recent past? The outward appearance of the people entering Beijing's central square that day showed that the working and ordinary people were really benefitting from the reforms.

In the sixties, when the millions of Red Guards marched across Tiananmen Square, endless rows of portraits of Mao Zedong fluttered above their bellowing battalions. On the 35th anniversary of the Republic not a single portrait flew above the columns of demonstrators, and not a single salute was heard in honor of the leaders standing on the rostrum. This, too, was a significant political feature of the renewal in progress in the country.

Then the Beijing University column approached the government rostrum and a homemade banner was suddenly and rapidly unfurled above the happily smiling students. It bore just four characters: "Xiao Ping Nin Hao," in other words, "Greetings, Xiaoping."

The meticulous journalists subsequently asked how the idea had occurred to the students. The day before the demonstration there was an uproar in a room at the Beijing University hostel. The young men and women gathered there were recalling the "Cultural Revolution" and comparing the past troubled time with the striking changes during the reforms. Someone exclaimed: "Let us commemorate Comrade Deng Xiaoping, after all, it is he who despite all the obstacles set out for the cherished goal and finally achieved the historic breakthrough in the motherland's destiny." "Perhaps we should make a placard, saying 'Long Live Comrade Deng Xiaoping'," a hesitant voice said. The suggestion was immediately rejected: Such salutes had been heard too often before and would Deng Xiaoping himself like such a greeting?... So they decided to use the simpler: "Greetings, Xiaoping!" That was how the banner appeared paying tribute to a respected man who is called in China the "chief architect of the reforms."

All Chinese know this short, stocky man well. And not just the Chinese. For example, TIME magazine named Deng Xiaoping Man of the Year in 1985.

We in the Soviet Union know the Chinese leader, too. The older generation will recall his visits to Moscow in the mid-fifites and the sharp polemic during the talks between the CPSU and CPC delegations in the early sixties. PRAVDA readers will also remember the early eighties when it seemed that a "united" international front against the USSR was about to be formed in Beijing....

These were not easy years in Soviet-Chinese relations. Clearly, one should not make snap judgments, try to asses that period simplistically, or personalize the responsibility for those episodes in our bilateral relations.

The wisdom and realism of the statesman are shown in the fact that he has within him the strength to reject past solutions which were wrong or did not work in practice and tirelessly seeks ways to surmount obstacles.

In recent years Soviet-Chinese relations have improved considerably in many spheres, primarily the economic, trade, scientific and technical, cultural, and educational spheres. Nevertheless, there have not yet been substantial improvements in bilateral political ties. Two years ago Deng Xiaoping noted when meeting with U.S. journalists that he was already an old man and that he does not travel abroad but that he would go to Moscow to meet with M.S. Gorbachev if the USSR brought its influence to bear on Vietnam and prompted it to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea.

The Soviet position on this question is well known. It has already been noted more than once at the highest level that the USSR is ready for talks at any time. We are also ready to discuss any questions at those talks, but there must be no prior conditions. In their letters, many of our readers express confidence that a Soviet-Chinese summit must be held.

Twice it seemed that Deng Xiaoping's star had fallen forever from the political firmament of People's China. Despite the predictions, however, he has returned to the leadership of the CPC and the PRC and sought time and again to free the country from the ideas of "regimented communism" and the voluntarist plans designed to overcome age-old backwardness by "leaps forward."

What is the basis of Deng Xiaoping's realistic policy? When did he first see and realize that you cannot at a stroke and by administrative and command methods make China into a powerful socialist state and provide shoes and food for its 1 billion half-starving people? When did he see that you cannot rely on the "omnipotence" of the gun and that the atomic bomb is definitely not a "paper tiger"?

Let us recall the most important landmarks in his political and personal biography.

Deng Xiaoping was born in 1904 into the family of a rural intellectual. His father had money, and Xiaoping did not live in poverty. At the age of 16 he went to France. Clearly this was a quite deliberate move. The early twenties were stormy years for China. The ideas of the Great October Revolution were widespread among the intelligentsia and young students. The first Marxist societies formed. The urge for knowledge was growing.

The money brought from home did not last long in Paris. He had to work for his daily bread. Xiaoping worked at the Renault car plant, he wielded a stoker's shovel, and was a waiter in a bistro. It was then, when he had experienced various aspects of life, that Deng Xiaoping made the decision which determined his future destiny—in Paris in 1922 he joined the Socialist Union of Chinese Youth and 2 years later the European branch of the Communist Party of China. In Paris, too, he lived with Zhou Enlai, and it was there that their lasting friendship was born which more than once saved Xiaoping from the worst upheavals of the political struggle.

After beginning by distributing leaflets among Chinese workers in France under the humorous name of "Doctor Mimeograph," Xiaoping soon showed himself to be a good clandestine organizer. In the mid-twenties the party sent him to study in the USSR at the Communist University of the Working People of the Orient and the Sun Yat-sen University. Among his fellow students was the now late Chiang Ching-kuo, son of Chiang Kai-shek.

After returning home, Deng Xiaoping began life as a professional revolutionary. He was in the thick of the stormy events of those years and gained experience as a political worker, soldier, and diplomat on the tortuous and difficult path of the Chinese revolution. Xiaoping took part in the Long March of the Chinese Red Army and the anti-Japanese liberation war, and in the preparation of a number of victorious operations. After the formation of the PRC he held important state posts and was elected general secretary of the CPC Central Committee.

Then came the "Great Leap Forward" of 1958.... The revolutionary enthusiasm of the people, aroused from many centuries of dormancy, the fraternal assistance of the Land of the Soviets, and the fast pace of the first Chinese 5-Year Plan—all this was overwhelming and created the illusion that it was possible to take a "short cut to communism." It is common knowledge what became of the slogan "3 years of determined labor, 10,000 years of happiness"....

The voluntarist experiment of the late fifties was subsequently critically reappraised in the PRC. But at that time it was very difficult to oppose Mao Zedong's extreme left-wing slogans. However, it was at that very period, by all accounts, that Deng Xiaoping's critical reappraisal of the leader's "guiding instructions" and his understanding of the need for a realistic approach to the solution of the country's urgent problems increased.

It was in the early sixties during the implementation of the "rectification policy," which Deng Xiaoping helped to produce, that he is said to have expressed his maxim: "It doesn't matter whether the cat is black or white, so long as it is good at catching mice." He was reminded of these words, which became a sort of slogan of the supporters of the realistic course and economic pragmatism, by his opponents during the Cultural Revolution which began some time later and then again in the mid-seventies after his first rehabilitation.

At the beginning of the "Cultural Revolution" in 1966 he was named after PRC Chairman Liu Shaoqi as the second "man in power following the capitalist path." Deng Xiaoping and his family were persecuted.

In 1984 Deng Rongping, his younger daughter, wrote an article entitled "Days in Jiangxi Province," giving her recollections of the troubled years of the "Cultural Revolution." Xiaoping was then accused of opposing Chairman Mao's line and of committing many other deadly crimes.

Repressions and persecutions scattered Deng Xiaoping's family to all four corners of the country. He, his wife, and daughter were exiled to the remote province of Jiangxi. There they experienced a difficult time of corrective labor in the so-called "cattle enclosures."

At the beginning of the "Cultural Revolution," Deng's oldest son Deng Pufang was studying in the physics and technical department at Beijing University. The rampaging Red Guards threw him out of a window, and he was left permanently crippled.

However, adversity and deprivation did not break Deng Xiaoping or shake his faith in revolutionary ideals. "More than 50 years' involvement in the revolution," Deng Rongping wrote, "developed in him a staunchness in the face of difficulties, composure when successful, and a philosophical view of his fate. He viewed adversities optimistically, tried to devote himself more to practical work, and never experienced spiritual emptiness or lack of determination."

Perhaps it was there in the remote provincial village that Deng Xiaoping's idea of building a specifically Chinese form of socialism finally crystallized. Having seen for himself the decline of agriculture under the harmful influence of "communization," it was perhaps then that he came to the conclusion that reforms had to begin with the countryside. But how to realize that plan—this question surely occured to Deng Xiaoping many times when he was working in the pigsty or wandering about the yard of his poor peasant dwelling.

In 1973 Deng Xiaoping, aided by Zhou Enlai, premier of the PRC State Council, returned from exile. He resumed leading work in Beijing: He directed the daily work of the Central Committee and began to rectify the mistakes of the "Cultural Revolution" which, as the Chinese press subsequently noted more than once, was a "grave natural disaster for the party and the people."

Deng Xiaoping found within himself the strength to extol once more the workers' material interest, markets, personal plots, and individual initiative. His realistic evaluation of the situation in the country and pragmatic proposals on the national economy's recovery from the grave crisis ran counter to the voluntarist directives of Mao Zedong and his immediate entourage, who were swept to power on the wave of the "Cultural Revolution." On literally the second day after Deng Xiaoping's new appointments a campaign was launched against him and his course.

The sharp clash of opinions in the Chinese leadership surfaced in the press in the form of articles couched in Aesopian language. Suddenly, as though by the wave of a magic wand, people began for many months "unmasking" the ancient sage Confucius and extolling the cruelty of the emperor Qin Shihuang. Everyone young and old furiously abused Song Jiang, hero of the medieval novel "The Water Margin." People recited and learned by heart Mao Zedong's poem "The Vulture and the Sparrow"....

After some time the veiled criticism of Deng Xiaoping developed into an open "movement to criticize Deng and resistance to the rightist turmoil of the reappraisal of correct organizational conclusions." He was removed a second time, according to the formula of those years, "from all posts inside the party and outside it." The disgraced leader fled and hid from the ire of the supporters of "regimented communism" somewhere in southern China. But the country was overwhelmed by an orgy of demonstrations, meetings, and rallies calling for the death of the "author of the bourgeois theory of the black and white cats."

But in October 1976 the "gang of four," well known for their adherence to an extreme left-wing course, were removed from the Chinese political arena. Within a year and with the support of the party's old guard, Deng Xiaoping returned to active political work once more. He was reappointed to leading party and state posts.

In December 1978 the 3d plenum of the CPC Central Committee, 11th convocation, an important strategic decision was taken on Deng Xiaoping's initiative. Instead of the old line of "regarding the class struggle as the decisive element," the center of gravity of the work of the entire party and country shifted to socialist modernization. The PRC began the difficult path of movement toward the gradual building of socialism in a backward, semifeudal country.

This movement is not easy and its progress has been and remains painful. Even Deng Xiaoping's authority was not always sufficient to convince his opponents, quite a few of whom were also those who just a few years before had hidden him from the "gang of four" and exerted considerable effort to achieve his return to leading CPC and PRC posts. Judging by political articles in the Beijing press, some accused him of "restoring capitalism" while others conversely demanded a more substantial liberalization of the country's domestic and foreign policy.

Life has demonstrated the correctness and rightness of Deng Xiaoping's proposals in his long political dispute with the supporters of leveling down and "regimented communism." With his direct participation, the important document entitled "Decision on Certain Questions of CPC History Since the Time of the PRC's Formation" was adopted at a CPC Central Committee plenum in 1981. It fundamentally rejects the "Cultural Revolution," that had the country in turmoil for 10 years, and reassesses Mao Zedong's activity in the last years of his life.

There is also an unequivocal repudiation of those who wish to divert China from the path of socialism. The party documents adopted with Deng Xiaoping's direct participation stress that "only socialism can save China." This idea runs throughout the materials of the recent 13th CPC Congress.

What, then, is the essences of the present-day modernization of China? In conversation with Czechoslovak Premier Lubomir Strougal last April Deng Xiaoping observed: "Poverty and socialism are not synonymous. It goes without saying that we will be firmly committed to socialism. But in order to continue building socialism it is necessary first and foremost to build a socialism free from poverty. Although we are now carrying out socialism, it is still not actually fully fledged. Only in the middle of the next century, when we reach the level of countries which are at a median level of development, will we be able to state that we have really built socialism and loudly proclaim socialism's advantages over capitalism."

As the Chinese press writes, Deng Xiaping continues in his 84th year to play an active part in party and state affairs. At the same time he firmly insisted on leaving the Central Committee at the 13th CPC Congress. This move marked an important milestone on the way toward lowering the average age of leading party personnel.

This topic was continually plugged at the daily press conferences at the House of People's Assemblies during the 13th congress, to which PRAVDA correspondents were accredited for the first time for many years. I remember how at one of the last meetings, when the question of the kind of role the Chinese leader was to play in the future was put forth for the umpteenth time, a representative of the CPC Central Committee replied: "No single topical problem in the country can be resolved without the participation of Comrade Deng

Xiaoping." Yes, it was stated unambiguously and frankly that the veteran of the Chinese revolution's sensitive fingers continue to take the pulse of the party, state, and the people.

Occupation with state affairs affects all of Deng Xiaoping's lifestyle. According to those close to him, his strict daily schedule was formed many years ago. He rises at 7 o'clock, breakfasts, and reads documents and the periodic press. And, of course, takes a regular walk.

It is said that he was advised to walk more by doctors at the end of the fifties, after he broke his leg. Walking has since become a habit. Deng sometimes even goes mountain-climbing. He became an inveterate soccer fan when he lived in France. Nowadays he does not miss a single televised match, particularly if it is an international one, if he can help it. He is also a devotee of bridge, billiards, and swimming. "Only when playing bridge," he says, "can you clear your mind and relax properly." As a true son of Sichuan he will happily prepare various dishes: Sichuan cooking is renowned in China.

Agreement always prevails in Deng Xiaoping's large family, comprising 16 people belonging to 4 generations. Xiaoping never interferes in the affairs of his children and grandchildren or seeks to show favoritism to them. You do not meet adherents of such a credo of life so often in China.

These personal qualities of Deng Xiapong's were clearly conducive to the high authority and popularity he enjoys today among members of the CPC and the whole people.

But...Deng Xiaping is nevertheless chiefly respected because—and this is clear from everything—he played the crucial role in implementing the historic breakthrough in CPC policy. Having laid for China, which has undergone so many setbacks, particularly in the years of the "Cultural Revolution," the path toward building a specifically Chinese socialism, Deng Xiaoping, one can say, opened a new page in the history of the CPC and the PRC.

Macau Business Delegation Visit Reported

LD1508164388 Moscow TASS in English 1551 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—A delegation of the business circles of Macau has come to the Soviet Union for a visit at the invitation of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It is led by Galhardo Simoes, secretary for economic problems of the government. He told TASS that the purpose of the visit was to find ways of expanding bilateral trade. There exist good opportunities for that today. Macau which is living through a stage of the intensive development of economy can increase its imports of Soviet machinery and raw materials and at the same time can offer its products to the USSR. Macau maintained trade relations with the USSR through third countries so far. This visit is the first attempt in the history of Macau to start operating on its own on the Soviet market. Galhardo Simoes pointed out that excessive capital permitted Macau to purchase modern technologies to be used in industry. During its stay in Moscow the delegation intends to discuss a possibility of launching joint ventures with the use of Soviet technologies in the USSR and Macau, as well as in third countries. Macau can act as an agent in ensuring the advance of Soviet goods to the markets of Asian and Pacific countries.

Commenting on the results of the first meeting of the Macau delegation with representatives of Soviet foreign trade organizations held at the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Yevgeniy Galanov, first deputy president of the Presidium of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that business relations with Macau were of considerable interest for the USSR. "We know possibilities of Macau industry which turns out high-quality and cheap consumer goods, and our direct contacts are sure to be mutually profitable", he said.

Galanov pointed out that one could hardly expect major contracts to be signed during the visit, because the Macau delgation had just come to familiarize themselves with the situation. However, this first step towards cooperation lays a good foundation for its development both in the sphere of trade, production cooperation and the launching of joint ventures.

A program of the visit includes meetings with senior executives of the Foreign Economic Commission of the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Activities, the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry and a number of Soviet foreign trade associations.

Northeast Asia

Japan Gets More Involved in U.S. Naval Strategy

OW1608074188 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Kalinin commentary]

[Text] The pan-Pacific naval exercise "Rimpac '88" which has continued for over 1 and ½ months with the participation of the United States, Japan, Australia, and Canada is closing on 6 August. In this regard, military commentator Kalinin writes:

This is the fifth "Rimpac" exercise in which Japan has participated. Japan's participation in each exercise in the past had its own characteristics, and its participation this year was no exception. The largest number of Japanese naval units participated in "Rimpac '88." With 10 naval ships, 8 airplanes, and 2,300 officers and men taking part, Japan established its position as the second largest participant following the United States.

I must point out the special nature of the tasks tackled by the Japanese Navy in "Rimpac '88." First, at the request of the United States, the Japanese Navy checked if it could efficiently engage in battle operations on its own in seas well away from Japan over an extended period. For this purpose, auxiliary vessels joined the Japanese fleet for the first time to perform the supply mission. This role was performed by U.S. supply ships in the past.

Second, Japanese naval ships were assigned to a U.S. fleet led by the aircraft carrier "Nimitz" and undertook carrier-protection training. In this connection, I would like to point out that as Vietnam war experiences show, the primary objective of U.S. carriers is to deliver blows at ground targets. It is no coincidence that a carrier's major strike capability is its nuclear-capable aircraft. It is also very clear that while escorting and protecting carriers, the Japanese Navy practiced offensive operations including the use of nuclear weapons. It is evident that these actions run counter to Japan's defense only for self-defense stand and three non-nuclear principles.

I must point to another aspect of this year's "Rimpac" exercise. According to a disclosure, South Korean officers and a delegation of the Japanese fleet command were aboard the aircraft carrier "Nimitz" during "Rimpac '88." Such a disclosure was not made in the past. It flashes through our minds that this united action is a new, practical step to put on track coordinated military operations within the framework of the triangular alliance among Washington, Tokyo, and Seoul.

The same thought comes to mind when we hear that Japan's Defense Agency has decided to conduct an unprecedentedly large naval exercise timed to coincide with the Seoul Olympics. Virtually all Japanese naval ships will be mobilized for this exercise, and patrol boats and other ships of the Maritime Safety Agency will be ordered on high combat readiness. Two U.S. aircraft carrier groups, led by the carriers "Nimitz" and "Midway" and including the battleships "New Jersey" and "Missouri," will participate in the exercise.

In this connection, SANKEI SHIMBUN has said that Japan and the United States will virtually take joint action in the event of an emergency on the Korean Peninsula. It seems appropriate to think that this year's "Rimpac" exercise marked a step toward this preparation.

Summing up all these facts, we can say that Japan's participation in the pan-Pacific naval exercise "Rimpac" has raised Japan's role in the U.S. naval strategy. However, this has nothing to do with security interests. As was correctly pointed out by THE WASHINGTON POST recently, current U.S. naval activities and strategies are being regarded as a threat to international peace.

Analyst Views Japan Surrender Anniversary

LD1508215688 Moscow TASS in English 2135 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

Historic dates offer an occasion to ponder on the past and learn lessons from it for the present and succeeding generations. August 15 is associated for the Japanese with the ending of the war of aggression unleashed by the militarist clique which took Japan to the disastrous road of aggressive adventures. On that day 43 years ago the emperor issued a rescript on surrender and on the adoption of the terms of the Potsdam Declaration of the anti-Hitler coalition powers.

The Japanese people has paid a dear price for deeds of its bellicose rulers who have on their conscience the perishing of three million sons of Japan who gave their lives for the criminal and futile plans of the military clique that dreamt of uniting "eight corners" of the world under one roof (Japanese). The war took an even heavier toll on the peoples who were victims of the Japanese aggression. Tens of millions of Chinese and Koreans, Filipinos and Indonesians, people of other countries perished.

If we forget that Japan has on its conscience more than 20 million dead in Asian countries during World War Two, we shall never be able to establish truly friendly relations with them, said a Japanese historian, one of the leaders of the National Council of the Association of Families Bereaved by War. The Japanese should finally realise that their country was not a victim of aggression, that it was an aggressor, he emphasised.

Japan, as no other country, should realise in full measure what it has done, said Takado Doi, the chairman of the Socialist Party of Japan. She noted the fact that 70 per cent of pupils in Japanese schools believe that Japan was the main victim of the past war.

This is naturally not the fault of pupils, but of those who supervise the teaching process. They are responsible for the fact that school text-books do not include real facts about Japan's role in the past war.

It should be noted, however, that the call of upright citizens of Japan, to say nothing of the voices coming from the countries that were victims of the Japanese aggression evoke little response from the Japanese ruling circles. An influential group of people in Japan disregards these attitudes, refuses to learn the lessons of the past. Moreover, this group would like to "correct" the facts of history so as to capitalise on them and justify the military preparations conducted in Japan now.

The stand of these people who justify Japan's aggression in the past war and its present military preparations is now unanimously condemned by all the opposition parties of the country. They demand from the government an end to the building up of Japan's military might as a course that runs counter to the tendencies toward the easing of international tension. They hold that Japan, the country that was the first to suffer from nuclear weapons should abandon the "pro-nuclear policy" and should actively press for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, for disarmament.

On the 43rd anniversary of the events of August 1945 certain persons in Tokyo should apparently ponder once again on this date, August 15, the more so since the Japanese public demands that the lessons of the past should be learned.

Greetings Exchanged To Mark DPRK Anniversary

Soviet Message to DPRK

PM1508110088 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

[Message from CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers to DPRK leaders on liberation anniversary]

[Text] To Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and president of the DPRK

To Comrade Yi Kun-mo, premier of the DPRK Administration Council

On the occasion of the 43d anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial domination, the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers and all the Soviet people send cordial congratulations and best wishes to the WPK Central Committee, the Central People's Committee, and the Administration Council of the DPRK and all the Korean people.

The peoples of our two countries devoutly preserve the memory of the combat days of summer 1945, when the Soviet Army inflicted the decisive blow against Japanese militarism and the cherished hope of the Korean patriots fighting for Korea's freedom and independence was realized. Liberation Day—15 August—opened up for the Korean people good prospects for the implementation of profound democratic transformations and the creation of a new society without exploitation or social inequality.

In the last 43 years the fraternal Korean people, under the leadership of their vanguard, the WPK, energetically tackling large-scale economic and cultural tasks, have achieved great successes in building socialism on Korean soil. Soviet people are sincerely pleased with these achievements by the DPRK working people and express firm solidarity with the consistent line of the WPK and the Republic's government toward lessening tension in the Korean Peninsula and strengthening peace in the Far East. They warmly support the course of the peaceful reunification of Korea by means of involving in this process broad political and social forces in North and South.

People in the Soviet Union note with satisfaction the fruitful development of all-around Soviet-Korean ties on the firm basis of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism, in accordance with the USSR-DPRK Treaty on Friendhsip, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance. The Soviet people advocate the further development of bilateral cooperation in politics, the economy, culture, and international affairs. The scaling of new heights by our countries and the maximum development of their potential promote the strengthening of socialism's prestige and influence in the world.

On behalf of the Soviet people we wish you and all the DPRK working people new achievements in building socialism and implementing the decisions of the Sixth WPK Congress and in the struggle for the reunification of Korea on a peaceful, democratic basis.

The CPSU Central Committee

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The USSR Council of Ministers

Kim Il-song Response

PM1508110288 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

[Kim Il-song message to Gorbachev and Gromyko on liberation anniversary]

[Text] To Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee

To Comrade Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

On behalf of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, the DPRK Government, and the Korean people, and on my own account I send to you and, through you, to the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers and to the Soviet people ardent fraternal greetings on the 43d anniversary of our motherland's liberation.

After 15 August 1945, when the Korean people, together with the Soviet Army, routed Japanese imperialism and achieved the great historic feat of the motherland's rebirth, they embarked on the broad path of building a new Korea free from exploitation and oppression.

In the period that has elapsed, under the difficult conditions of the division of the country and nation, our people, under the party's leadership, have successfully implemented a social revolution, in its various stages, in the northern part of the Republic, and have built a flourishing socialist, sovereign, independent state. Bearing aloft the banner of three revolutions—ideological, technical, and cultural—they continue to develop the energetic struggle for the complete victory of socialism and the acceleration of the autunomous, peaceful unification of the motherland.

The 15 August liberation was a new milestone in the development of friendly Korean-Soviet relations. The Soviet people gave our people active support and assistance in the struggle for the motherland's security, to defend the revolution's gains against imperialist aggression, and to build a new society. To this day they express firm solidarity with our people's just cause in the name of socialist building and the peaceful unification of the motherland.

The Korean people actively support the struggle of the party, Government, and people of the USSR for the acceleration of socioeconomic development, the deepening of the restructuring process, the creation of a comprehensive system of international security, the implementation of nuclear disarmament, and the building of a world without wars.

The traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the parties, countries, and peoples of Korea and the Soviet Union, built on the foundations of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, deepen and develop from day to day in all spheres in the spirit of the accords reached during the bilateral summit meeting. We are satisfied with this and are confident that Korean-Soviet relations of friendship and cooperation will continue to widen and develop still further in the course of the joint struggle for the sake of peace, for the triumph of the great cause of socialism and communism.

Let me take this opportunity wholeheartedly to wish you and the Soviet people still greater successes in the struggle for the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 19th all-union party conference and for the defense of peace and security in Europe, Asia, and throughout the world.

Kim Il-song

General secretary of the WPK Central Committee, president of the DPRK

Yi Kun-mo Greets Ryzhkov

PM1508111188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
15 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

[Yi Kun-mo message to Ryzhkov on liberation anniversary]

[Text] To Comrade Nikolay Ivanovich Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers

On the occasion of the 43d anniverary of Korea's liberation, I send you most ardent comradely greetings.

Korea's liberation from the colonial domination of Japanese imperialism was a great victory won by our people together with the heroic Soviet Army, a crucial event that opened a new era in the history of Korean-Soviet friendship.

At present the traditional friendly Korean-Soviet relations are deepening and developing from day to day in the spirit of the accords reached at the talks between the two countries' leaders in October 1986.

We note with satisfaction that Korean-Soviet relations of friendship and cooperation are developing on an ascending line, and we are confident that these relations will continue to widen and strengthen in the interests of the cause of socialism, communism, and peace throughout the world, in the interests of the two countries' peoples.

Let me take this opportunity sincerely to wish you still greater successes in work aimed at further deepening restructuring on the basis of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and 19th all-union party conference and successfully completing the 12th 5-Year Plan

Yi Kun-mo

Premier of the DPRK Administration Council

DPRK Party Organ Urges Dialogue With U.S.

PM1608090588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
12 Aug 88 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Dialogue Needed"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 11 Aug—Tension could be lowered and peace strengthened on the Korean peninsula if the existing 1953 Korean armistice agreement were replaced by a peace agreement. The DPRK Supreme People's Assembly Standing Committe has sent that proposal in a letter to the U.S. Congress. NODONG SINMUN states today that after 10 days the U.S. lesislators have given no reply to the DPRK's new initiative.

The conclusion with the U.S. side of a peace agreement in Korea, the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee organ points out, would open up prospects for the normalization of relations between the DPRK and the United States and also create favorable conditions for the development of dialogue between North and South Korea.

However, the policy pursued by the United States in this region at present merely helps to heighten tension on the peninsula. NODONG SINMUN draws attention to the fact that Washington, using the pretext of an alleged "threat of aggression against the South" by the North, is continuing to build up its armed forces in South Korea.

The political solution of disputes by means of dialogue has become the decisive trend in the international arena. That is why interparliamentary talks between the DPRK and the United States must be conducted as soon as possible in the interests of peace and detente on the Korean peninsula, NODONG SINMUN stresses.

Near East & South Asia

Government 'Statement' on Afghanistan Issued

PM1508153588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 1

[Unattributed "Statement by the Soviet Government"]

[Text] It is 3 months since the day when the Geneva agreements on a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan entered into force, marking the beginning of a qualitatively new stage in the untangling of one of the most complex and painful regional conflicts. The documents which were signed in Geneva in April 1988 by the foreign ministers of Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States, and the Soviet Union and which came into force on 15 May, are of abiding importance: They are not only aimed at eliminating the external factors which led to the emergence of the "Afghan question," but are also designed to facilitate the achievement of an internal Afghan settlement and national accord between all Afghans.

How are the past 3 months to be assessed; is this period too long or too short to pass judgment regarding specific results? If this brief time period were to be compared with the 8 years during which the Afghan knot was pulled tighter and tighter, it would of course be difficult to expect a swift resolution. At the same time, the honest and scrupulous fulfillment of the letter and spirit of the Geneva accords—which is precisely what the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan are doing—indicates that much can be accomplished even in a brief period of time.

The Soviet Union, being one of the international guarantors of the Geneva package of agreements, applies all efforts to ensure that its commitments under the documents are fulfilled precisely and on schedule. This is indicated primarily by the fact that, as laid down in the Geneva agreements, one-half of the Soviet troops contingent has been brought back home from Afghanistan by 15 August. The Soviet Union respects the principles and stipulations on noninterference enshrined in the relevant Afghan-Pakistani agreement and is applying all its international prestige and influence to ensure that the other countries adopt the same responsible and respectful attitude toward the bilateral accord between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan, which is striving by all means to facilitate the implementation of the Geneva accords, is operating with the same sincerity and and in the same spirit of good will. The Afghan leadership cannot be accused of failing to utilize the opportunities offered by Geneva for the process of internal Afghan settlement. This process, despite all the obstacles raised in its way, is advancing. Suffice it to mention important events like the convening of the National Council (parliament) where various political forces and strata of Afghan society are represented, the formation of a new government cabinet in which elements of coalition are manifested quite clearly, and others.

The network of coalition organs of power is expanding in the provinces, with governors in many instances appointed from among opposition figures who until not so long ago operated with weapons in their hands against the existing power or had occupied important positions under previous regimes. The far-reaching political platform proclaimed by the Afghan leadership and based on political pluralism, the PDPA's renunciation of monopoly of power and its readiness for real compromises with all opposing forces could, provided the opposite side displays reciprocity, lead to the formation of a most broadly based coalition government in Afghanistan and thus put an end to the protracted bloodshed on Afghan soil.

Unfortunately, the Soviet side has been forced to state that the cause of Afghan settlement today could have been moved far further forward had the other parties to the Geneva agreements—first and foremost, Pakistan—carried into effect the whole range of their commitments under the said agreements in an equally responsible, consistent, and vigorous manner. In practice, however, the picture has been precisely the opposite.

One of the main questions of a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, along with the troop withdrawal, is, as is well known, the ending of outside interference in Afghans' domestic affairs. It would be logical and justifiable to expect that with the entry into force of the Geneva agreements such interference—which mainly takes place from Pakistani territory—would end. Nonetheless, today, 3 months after the Geneva agreements acquired the force of law, interference in Afghan affairs has not only not ended but has even increased to a certain extent. Large quantities of weapons, including heavy weapons, continue to be transferred into Afghanistan from Pakistan, and armed formations and foreign instructors are infiltrated into Afghanistan from Pakistan.

Recently the Republic's capital—Kabul—has been systematically subjected to rocket attacks, as a result of which innocent people, old people, women, and children, have been killed and great damage done to residential areas. These barbaric bombardments are a direct challenge to the Afghan Government's efforts aimed at stopping the bloodshed and establishing peace in Afghanistan. The responsibility for these and other criminal acts of terrorism is borne not only by their immediate perpetrators, but by all those supplying the opposition with deadly weaponry and essentially urging it into actions incompatible with the principles of humanism and international law.

Pakistan's violation of its obligations under the Geneva agreements is also expressed in its direct encouragement for the Afghan opposition to oust the legitimate Afghan

Government. With the direct support of the Pakistani authorities the "Alliance of Seven" has created in Peshawar a so-called "transitional Afghan Government." Pakistan's aforesaid actions are a blatant violation of Article 2 of the agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan on the principles of mutual relations and, in particular, on noninterference and the renunciation of intervention.

These ignoble actions by the Pakistani side—actions which run counter to the Geneva agreements—are in fact supplemented by actions aimed at hampering the return home of Afghan refugees and at impeding the work of the UN control mechanism, which is meant to monitor the sides' strict fulfillment of their commitments and to prevent any possible violations of them.

The situation regarding the fulfillment of the Geneva agreements cannot but cause justified concern to those who are interested in resolving the Afghan problem and who see a political settlement as the essential condition for ending the bloodshed and beginning a constructive dialogue among Afghans. If Pakistan continues to reduce the Geneva agreements merely to the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and disregards its own concrete commitments on noninterference in that country's affairs this may have unfavorable consequences for the Afghan settlement.

The Soviet Government states with the utmost determination that Pakistan's continuation of its obstructionist line toward the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan cannot continue to be tolerated. In that event the Soviet Union reserves the right to take the measures which the situation dictates.

In this regard the Soviet Government expresses the hope that the United States as one of the guarantors of the Geneva accords will not remain indifferent to the violation of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan and will exert the corresponding influence on it. It is also important to ensure that other countries realize their share of the responsibility on the Afghan question and do not permit actions capable of complicating the implementation of the Geneva agreements and consequently the whole Afghan settlement.

There is reason to believe that the United Nations, which has made such a significant contribution to achieving the Geneva agreements, will also be able to play an important and constructive role in matters pertaining to the successful implementation of the political settlement around Afghanistan. In this regard the UN control mechanism has the necessary potential and capacity to enable it to operate actively and to monitor the strict and precise fulfillment by the sides of their commitments. In this work the United Nations can continue to count on the maximum assistance and help from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union will in turn continue to do everything in its power to ensure that the Afghan experience of unblocking regional conflicts will be successfully implemented. However, much here of course depends on the political will and the resolve of all the parties to the Geneva agreements and all the political forces involved in the Afghan question. If realism, farsightedness, and a striving for peace in Afghanistan are demonstrated in practice, the day when people talk about the Afghan problem in the past tense will successfully be brought closer. The task is to make maximum use in Afghan affairs of those manifestations of the new thinking and of a nonconfrontational approach which are increasingly gaining ground in the system of international relations and becoming the realities of the present day.

Further on Statement

LD1508142488 Moscow World Service in English 1400 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] One-half of the Soviet military contingent has returned home from Afghanistan in accordance with the Geneva accords. This was stated by the Soviet Government today.

The Republic of Afghanistan, which seeks to facilitate in every way the implementation of the Geneva agreements, also acts in a spirit of goodwill.

The Soviet Government pointed out that an Afghan settlement could have made much greater progress if the other parties, and first of all Pakistan, complied with their commitments in the same responsible, consistent, and energetic way. If Pakistan, which directly encourages the Afghan opposition in bringing down a lawful government of Afghanistan, continues to reduce the Geneva agreements to the withdrawal of a Soviet contingent from Afghanistan alone, this could have unfavorable consequences for an Afghan settlement.

The USSR, the Soviet Government warns, reserves a right to take such measures that are prompted by the situation.

It expressed the hope that the United States, as one of the guarantors of the Geneva accords, would not remain indifferent to their violations on the part of Pakistan and would influence it in a corresponding manner.

It is important for other countries to also be aware of their share of responsibility on the Afghan problem. A constructive role could be played by the United Nations, which made a substantial contribution to attaining the agreements in Geneva. And the Soviet Government pointed out that maximum use should be made in Afghan affairs of the new thinking and nonconfrontation approach, which are becoming a reality today. The Soviet Union will continue to do all it can to see that the experience of Afghanistan in solving regional conflicts will be put into practice successfully.

Afghan Government Statement on Troop Withdrawal

LD1508213888 Moscow TASS in English
2127 GMT 15 Aug 88

["Statement by Afghan Government"—TASS headline]

[Text] Kabul August 15 TASS—The Geneva accords, reached with U.N. active assistance and in effect for three months now, have created an international legal basis for a political settlement of the situation concerning Afghanistan, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan said in a statement issued here today.

It is said that the accords had a favourable effect on the international climate and showed ways for peaceful solution of acute regional conflicts.

"The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan is making all efforts to fulfil its commitments in an accurate and consistent way," the statement said.

"Acting in the spirit of complete mutual understanding with the Soviet Union—one of the international guarantors of the Geneva accords, Afghanistan is doing everything necessary to ensure strict observance of the planned schedule of the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

"By today, half of the Soviet troop contingent has returned home in accordance with the Geneva accords," the statement went on.

I voiced regret that over the past three months Pakistan had not fulfilled a single point of the Geneva accords.

"Moreover, it has sharply invigorated its interference in Afghanistan affairs.

"The U.S. Administration, a guarantor of the Geneva accords, does not oppose the obstructionist policy of the Pakistani authorities and thus encourages them to engage in subversive activities.

"Such actions by Pakistan and forces behind it not only violate the Geneva accords but openly challenge the United Nations and fully disregard generally accepted norms and principles of international law.

Pakistan, contrary to its commitments, is openly prodding the irreconcilable Afghan opposition to topple the legitimate government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

"The existence in Pakistani territory of the so-called transitional government is a gross violation of the Geneva accords and generally accepted norms of international law.

"The Afghan Government views all these actions as acts of undisguised interference in the domestic affairs of its country.

"It does not lose hope that the Pakistani side will display wisdom at last and think of consequences of such shortsighted actions.

"The Afghan Government has the right to expect the U.S. administration to act, not in word but in deed, as a guarantor of the Geneva accords.

"The Afghan Government holds that U.N. will use its entire prestige and capabilities for implementation of the Geneva accords.

"The government of the Republic of Afghanistan cannot remain indifferent to actions threatening the country's political independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

"If the interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs is not stopped, the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, which have complete mutual understanding on the issue, will draw necessary conclusions and specify their measures to meet the requirements of the situation," the statement said.

First Stage of Troop Pull-Out Completed

LD1508150888 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Kushka August 15 TASS—"Peace to the land of Afghanistan", "We abide by the Geneva accords": These were the slogans carried on artillery pieces in slip-covers with which artillery and motorized units from among the limited contingent of Soviet troops crossed the Soviet-Afghan border in the area of Kushka today. This marked the completion of the first stage of their withdrawal from Afghanistan. A half of the Soviet troops staying in Afghanistan, a neighbour of the USSR, at the request of its government has been withdrawn by today.

"The servicemen have done their duty," a TASS correspondent was told by Lieutenant-Colonel Gennadiy Makarov. We were stationed in Shindand, Qandahar and Jalalabad Provinces [as received] and acted jointly with the Afghan Army units, upholding peace in the Afghan soil.

Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir Martinenko spoke about the participation of the Soviet servicemen in the restoration of electric power stations and power transmission lines, in the construction of a school and a mosque in Qal'eh-ye Mir Da'ud village. Propagandists carried out a large amount of explanatory work among the population. In Helmand Province, tens of members of armed units ceased their fight and went over to the side of the government after conversations with elders and mullahs. The Afghans gave a warm send-off to the Soviet troops. The 120-kilometre march from Herat was a quiet one due to the protection by the units of the Afghan Army.

Under the Geneva accords, the second stage in the return home of Soviet troops is due to start in November 1988 and end in February 1989.

Soviets, Afghans Greet Troops

LD1408124888 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0730 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Excerpts] These days military servicemen-internationalists have been returning home from Afghanistan in keeping with the Geneva agreements. Here is a report by our Kabul correspondent Aleksandr Shkirando, who visited the border town of Termez:

[Shkirando] Even a few days ago when I was in the northern province of Konduz I observed the servicemen of a particular unit getting ready for the march, handing over to their Afghan friends military, city, and subsidiary premises. Here is a convoy of this unit reaching the Soviet bank over a long bridge over the Amu Darya, called by Afghans the friendship bridge. They are arriving on the Soviet side. Residents of Termez, veterans of the Great Patriotic War from various cities of the country, and representatives of science and culture have come to welcome the internationalist servicemen. From the Afghan side, Haydar Masud, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, and Muhammad Sharif, governor of Balkh Province, which borders Uzbekistan, have arrived here to express gratitude to the Soviet servicemen. They are having a ceremony and a festive rally in their homeland.

Comrade Lieutenant General, the unit personnel have arrived home, having completed their military internationalist duty. The unit commander is Lieutenant Colonel (Gunovskiy).

[Unidentified military official] Hello, comrades servicemen-internationalists. I congratulate you on your successful fulfillment of your homeland's order and on your return to your native land. [passage omitted]

[Shkirando] The ceremonial meeting in the homeland is over. The Soviet servicemen-internationalists are returning to the places where they will be permanently stationed.

Kabul Troop Pullout Cited

PM1508143388 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 9 Aug 88 p 3

[Report by special correspondent P. Vedenyapin: "Mothers Waiting for Sons. The Withdrawal of Soviet Troops From Afghanistan Continues"]

[Text] Kabul—It was 0900 hours in the district of Kheyr Khaneh in Kabul. The first homeward-bound Soviet subunit from the Kabul garrison was seen off yesterday from the outskirts of the Afghan capital. The withdrawal of troops from Kabul will continue in 2 days' time, on 11 August. In accordance with the Geneva agreements, the first stage of the withdrawal of units from the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan will end on 15 August. By that date, one-half of the Soviet servicemen will have returned home. Units of the limited contingent will remain in only 5 of the 30 Afghan provinces.

Afghan Army soldiers and officers, citizens, students, and schoolchildren turned up to see the Soviet troops off. There were Pakistani students among them. One of them, Sa'id Salyamulla, gave the Soviet soldiers flowers. The feelings expressed were sincere and the handshakes were friendly. Many people in Afghanistan can speak Russian. So our men were able to understand what Kabul student Kamar Alishah was saying to them: "For nearly 10 years we have been defending the Afghan people's interests shoulder to shoulder and arm in arm. Today you are going home. Return home alive and well. Good luck. And many thanks!"

The command was given to drive off. The column was on its way. There were fresh flowers on combat vehicles' armor.

I watched the departing column and wondered how often people had tried to discredit with gross lies our country's sincere, constructive actions in the international arena. Now rumors have appeared in the West to the effect that the Soviet troops are being withdrawn all right, but, at the same time, they are preparing for major combat actions, mining roads, laying booby traps, and planting children's toys packed with explosives. Well, there are indeed mines and "toys" that maim children. But they are being planted not by Soviet or Afghan soldiers. They are being planted by dushmans in order to destabilize the situation in the country and intimidate refugees trying to return to Afghanistan. Soviet and Afghan sappers are neutralizing the mines. But they are not always able to avoid losses in doing so...

Armored transport vehicles were passing by. On the inside of the open hatches they had painted: "Latvia, Nizhniy Tagil, Crimea, the Quiet-Flowing Don..." Places where their nearest and dearest were awaiting the soldiers. The whole country is waiting...

Our men had to cover 520 km before reaching the Soviet border. Tomorrow the column will arrive in Termez. The men have honorably carried out their internationalist duty, and the homeland can be proud of them. It might be a hard road ahead, but it is the road home. The hardest Afghan road, certainly, but also the most joyous...

I watched the departing column and pondered the answers to the question most frequently asked by journalists: "How will the withdrawal of subunits of the limited contingent of Soviet troops affect the political situation in Afghanistan?" In other words, will the final withdrawal of our troops from a particular province be a kind of signal for a massive operation by the armed opposition? Everyone I spoke with in Kabul—from ordinary resident to National Council deputy—agreed:

It can be stated today that the political stability whose foundation was created by the policy of national reconciliation will remain and grow even stronger. The Afghan Army is efficient and battle-hardened enough, and state power, based on the principle of a PDPA coalition with other political forces, has considerable authority among the people.

At a news conference for foreign journalists, Afghan Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq, in answering your KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent's question concerning the situation in the three provinces from which Soviet troops have already been withdrawn, said: "At the local level there are authorities elected by the people. As for acts of terror, they, unfortunately, are occurring not only in the provinces where there are no Soviet troops. We are counting on the armed opposition's common sense and goodwill in the matter of halting the terror."

The local situation was also discussed at a meeting with the governors of a number of provinces.

"Soviet troops have already left Qandahar. We are grateful to them for the invaluable experience they have passed on to us," Provincial Governor Nurol Hak Ulumi said. "The armed opposition has not laid down its arms. But we will not let the rebels take a single population center. Our Army is capable of defending Qandahar. We believe that at such a crucial time for Afghanistan, the opposition will finally realize that we are one people, one state in which peace will arrive. And it will come when the Geneva accords are observed by all interested parties and when outside interference in our affairs stops."

"I am not a member of the PDPA. But like hundreds of thousands of other Afghans who are not party members, I feel a responsibility for the country's destiny," Herat Governor Fazl Haq Khalqyar said. In a few days' time, units of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops will also begin to withdraw from there. "The people of the province welcomed the policy of national reconciliation. The situation is stable. And it is not a matter of being geographically remote from Pakistan, where the armed opposition's bases are situated—this does not prevent it from delivering weapons to Herat. The thing is that people have simply recognized the advantages of national reconciliation. Recently 40 opposition groupings went over to the side of the government. We are currently holding talks with representatives of another 90 groupings which, I believe, will end in complete mutual understanding. At the moment only a few extremist groups are carrying out combat operations in the province. And with each passing day we are acquiring more and more supporters. The people trust the government. Some 65,000 people have already returned to Herat—they include doctors and engineers, teachers and traders. The jirgah has resumed its activities. We are also doing a great deal in the social policy sphere. There are 124 schools operating in the province, new educational establishments are opening all the time, large-scale housing construction is under way, the population's income is increasing, and agricultural production has increased."

Yes, life in the country is returning to normal, but this does not mean the Afghan people are in a state of "reconciliation euphoria." Continuing attacks by gangs are making them particularly vigilant. On Saturday dushmans committed another crime against their own people. Three rockets were fired at Kabul. The aim of the attack was not to strike state institutions or military garrisons, but rather to cause panic. Only one rocket exploded, without causing any damage. The other two struck houses. One woman was killed, and six people were injured, including five children...

It is no secret how the bandits came by these and other instruments of murder. While the Soviet Union and Afghanistan are meticulously observing all the provisions of the Geneva agreements, which paved the way to the cessation of the bloody regional conflict, Pakistan is grossly violating the accords and is continuing to dispatch weapons and gangs to Afghanistan. Also, the dushman bases on Pakistani territory have not yet been eliminated. You have an unnatural situation from the standpoint of international law in which one side is ignoring the commitments it has undertaken. As a result, totally innocent people are again being killed.

But despite the terror, the Afghan people will not lose faith in the correctness of the chosen path. Refugees are returning to the country—this is another clear sign of national reconciliation. Around 150,000 people have already returned, and before the end of the year Afghanistan expects to receive around 1 million of its citizens who ended up abroad against their will. They are all going home... I watched the departing column and thought about how much our men who left Kabul yesterday had done to make this return possible...

Gromov News Conference on Troop Withdrawal

LD1508165988 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 15 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by correspondent M. Leshchinskiy]

[Text] Today, 15 August, the first stage of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the Republic of Afghanistan was concluded. In Kabul a news conference by the commander of the limited contingent of our troops was devoted to this event. [video shows news conference, reporters seated at table at one end of which Gromov and others sit]

[M. Leshchinskiy, identified by caption] The end of the first stage of the Soviet troop withdrawal means that more than 50,000 of our soldiers, warrant officers, and officers have already crossed the border between war and peace and have returned home. This was the figure given at the start of the news conference by this charming 45-year-old general, Boris Vsevolodovich Gromov, a Hero of the Soviet Union.

He is already well known by the representatives of the major Western news agencies, radio, and television companies. Lieutenant General Gromov, as we say, was presented to them 3 months ago when the first units and formations moved toward the border. Now, in full keeping with the Geneva agreements, the Soviet contingent of servicemen has been exactly halved. Today there is not a single Soviet soldier in 26 out of 32 Afghan provinces.

In his statement, the commander also refuted the many conjectures being persistently spread in the West. Turning to the journalists—who incidentally were permitted not only to observe the troop withdrawal and their homecoming, but also to move among the convoys on several routes—the general noted that there is absolutely no foundation to rumors that Soviet troops are mining the regions they are leaving. All minefields, he said, are either being destroyed or handed over to the Afghan side according to established procedures and at their request.

It was particularly stressed at the news conference that our troops are leaving Afghanistan having fulfilled their mission. They facilitated the stabilization of that country's political situation and helped preserve Afghanistan as a sovereign, integral, and nonaligned state.

[Begin recording] [Leshchinskiy] Soviet television, Leshchinskiy. Comrade Commander, my question is this: It is natural for the withdrawal of 50 percent of personnel to weaken our group here in the military sense. Does this not create additional danger for our remaining units, particularly since, to judge by the map, they have remained in the most threatened sectors, the main vehicle highways? Retaliatory combat operations are apparently possible.

[Gromov] Of course, if one compares the personnel of the limited contingent before the start of the withdrawal and what now remains, then at first glance it gives the impression that the group has been significantly weakened. But one must not forget that the 50 percent that we have withdrawn were located in 12 provinces. Now, the remaining 50 percent of our troops are deployed in six provinces, as I have already said. We have no doubt at all that the combat effectiveness of the remaining 50 percent will in no way be reduced, and I see no danger whatsoever in this respect.

Regarding retaliatory combat operations, we have also repeatedly made statements on this. We are not carrying out planned combat operations, but if the opposition takes the liberty of attacking us, or, let us put it like this, continues attacking our troops, then of course they will receive a response. [end recording]

Further on News Conference

PM1508155588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Special correspondent Ye. Bay dispatch: "Fulfilling Adopted Pledges. Some 50 Percent of the Soviet Troops Have Been Withdrawn From Afghanistan, Lieutenant General B.V. Gromov, commander of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops, Announced at a Kabul News Conference"]

[Text] Kabul—Many of the local and foreign journalists present in Kabul's Continental Hotel remember B.V. Gromov's first conference. Then the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan was just beginning. The first stage of the withdrawal is now complete. Over the past 3 months Soviet formations and units have left garrisons in 12 of the country's provinces. There is now not a single Soviet soldier in 26 of Afghanistan's 32 provinces.

The UN representatives, Lieutenant General B.V. Gromov pointed out, have had an opportunity to see for themselves that Soviet troops have not participated in combat operations since the Geneva agreements were signed. There has been no need to do so because the Afghanistan Armed Forces possess high combat ability and are ready to resolve independently all the aims set. The chief task facing our troops was to ensure the protection and defense of the cities and to escort the columns of troops returning home and the freight convoys for the Afghan population.

B.V. Gromov particularly noted the great assistance given to the population of Afghanistan by Soviet troops over the past months. Our units and subunits have built dozens of various educational institutions, hospitals, and houses and repaired many kilometers of roads, lines of communication, power lines, and hundreds of bridges. The inhabitants of various parts of Afghanistan have been given free aid to the value of R260 million this year alone. In the course of the troop withdrawal 2,289 installations of various kinds, including hospitals, hotels, workshops, storehouses, and military camps, have been handed over to the Afghan side.

The rumors alleging that Soviet troops are mining the areas they are leaving and taking no measures to eliminate mine fields alongside lines of communication, guard outposts, and permanent stationing bases—posing a threat to peaceful inhabitants and the return of refugees—are totally groundless, the commander of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops declared. After the Soviet troop withdrawal all mine fields are either destroyed or handed over to the Afghan side according to the prescribed procedure (around military installations and at the request of the Afghan command).

The corresponding documents exist, and the UN observers have been informed.

Replying to a question from IZVESTIYA's correspondent, B.V. Gromov pointed out that it is premature to say that the troop withdrawal might be speeded up if Pakistan reduces or altogether abandons its interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The facts indicate that the Pakistani authorities not only are not making attempts to renounce interference but, on the contrary, are stepping it up.

There are several main areas of Pakistani interference in the neighboring country's internal affairs: the centralized control of rebel detachment operations from a headquarters located on Pakistani territory; the ever-increasing supply of weapons and ammunition to the extremists, which not only has not diminished but, on the contrary, has increased since the Geneva agreements were signed; the creation of major weapons dumps and transshipment bases in regions bordering on Afghanistan and on the territory of Afghanistan itself; and the training of rebels in centers situated in Pakistan.

In June alone over 3,000 rebels came to Afghanistan from these training centers. In early August a detachment of 150 people, "graduates" from the centers, was set up to act as part of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" gangs in Ghazni. Moreover, special terrorist groups are being dispatched to Afghanistan to carry out acts of sabotage in major administrative centers.

As a result, in the period from 15 May through 15 July alone there were 2,914 armed attacks and 96 terrorist sabotage acts, in the majority of cases against the civilian population.

Aside from this, the Pakistani side is taking steps to prevent Afghan refugees from returning home.

A Japanese newspaper correspondent asked a question: How do you see the current military-political situation in Afghanistan?

Despite the continuing trend toward stabilization, B.V. Gromov said, the situation in the country remains complex and tense. This is due primarily to outside interference, to increased activity by the "irreconcilable" section of the armed opposition. At the same time, people's power has firm control of the situation, the social base of the revolutionary process is expanding, the policy of national reconciliation is gathering momentum, and the role of the Afghan Armed Forces is growing.

A correspondent from the Italian newspaper IL GIORNALE: Is the Soviet forces command in Afghanistan in contact with the opposition for the purpose of obtaining the release of Soviet prisoners of war?

[Gromov] The Soviet Government and public organizations in our country and abroad are taking vigorous steps to obtain the release of Soviet prisoners of war. As for our command, we too are taking serious steps and, naturally, we are maintaining several contacts with the armed opposition.

A UPI correspondent: What can you say about the situation in the area of the Afghan city of Konduz?

"The media have already reported that since the withdrawal of Soviet troops the situation in this provincial center has deteriorated. It has been reported that major opposition forces have seized the city and are effectively controlling the situation in and around Konduz. This is more or less the information we have. To be frank, some Afghan comrades in the provincial leadership have been rather nonchalant. I do not doubt, however, that in the very near future the Afghan Government will take resolute steps to establish order in this northern province. Soviet forces have not carried out any combat actions in Konduz," B.V. Gromov said.

The commander of the limited contingent of Soviet troops totally dismissed suggestions that after 15 February—the date of the final withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan—some Soviet subunits will remain there and Soviet aircraft will continue to participate in combat actions. As for the number of our military advisers, this is a matter for the Soviet and Afghan Governments, he stressed.

Afghan Government Troops Recapture Konduz

LD1508170688 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Meanwhile, government troops in Afghanistan have restored full control of the northern city of Konduz. At a press conference in Kabul, President Najibullah stressed that Konduz was in the hands of the Afghan Armed Forces. Earlier news reports said the city was partially taken over by the mujahidin after it was evacuated by Soviet units.

Kabul, Jalalabad Attacked

LD1608092088 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0753 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, 16 Aug (TASS)—TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin reports: the capital of Afghanistan has again become the target of a missile attack. Over the past 2 days the extremists have fired up to 10 rocket shells on Kabul. Five people have been killed and another 11 inhabitants of the city have been injured. On Monday, 42 rocket shells fell on the residential districts of Jalalabad. Six civilians were the victims of the insurgents' terror, and a similar number were injured. The Afghan security forces have uncovered eight rocket shells ready to be launched on Kabul in the major districts of

Paghman and Chahar Asiab. Several surface-to-surface class long-distance missiles have been seized in the district of Agam in Nangarhar.

Fierce fighting is continuing in the Konduz area, the administrative center of the province of the same name. According to BAKHTAR reports, subunits of the Republic's Armed Forces during an operation against rebel groupings which had burst into the town, have, over the last day, destroyed up to 100 extremists. It is also reported that actions by detachments of the armed opposition have led to considerable destruction in Konduz. During combat operations the troops are making the maximum efforts to avoid damaging urban buildings. BAKHTAR writes that the rebels' act has aroused indignation among the residents of Konduz, many of whom are fighting alongside the servicemen of the Afghan Army.

In recent days, government troops have carried out a further series of operations against opposition formations in, for example, Laghman, Paktia and Konarha Provinces.

Internecine clashes between hostile opposition groupings continue on the country's territory. In particular, about 10 rebels have died as a result of such fighting in the provinces of Parvan and Faryab.

BAKHTAR reports that UN observers have been handed the 70th and 71st notes of the Afghan Foreign Ministry. These list facts of violation of the Geneva agreements by the Pakistani side. The Afghan Foreign Ministry has addressed a request to the Government of Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative.

'Irreconcilables' More Active

LD1508130988 Moscow TASS in English 1231 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 15 TASS—Ten groups from the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan", the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" and "Hizballah" numbering up to 660 people ceased the armed struggle against the popular power in various areas of the country in the first ten days of August. They handed over a large amount of various weapons and ammunition.

Another 450 people have returned to Nangahar Province from Pakistan. A total of 32,000 repatriates have returned there over the period since the beginning of the national reconciliation process, BAKHTAR news agency points out. Forty seven Afghans returned to Farah Province from Iran in the past 24 hours.

A marked intensification of combat operations and strikes by the "irreconcilable" part of the opposition has been observed lately. In the first ten days of August, for instance, extremists launched 142 strikes and 18 attacks at settlements in several provinces of the country, killing 31 civilians and injuring 113.

The armed detachments of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" and the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan" managed to capture Shakar Darreh District. According to reports monitored here, these groups have in their possession 1,500 rockets for bombarding the Afghan capital. Four large formations equipped with long-range weapons, rockets and Stinger missiles were formed by the leaders of the Alliance of the Seven in Pakistani territory to exacerbate the situation in Kabul Province and bombard the capital. They are to move from Pakistan to Qarah Bagh, Paghman and Sarowbi District of Kabul Province shortly. According to some information, there are Pakistani, Arab, French and American advisers among the rebels.

Some reports say that Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" intends to arrive in Khowst District from Peshawar shortly with four foreign advisers.

The security forces of Herat aborted the attempt to smuggle batches of ammunition in the city. Eighty boxes holding cartridges for various types of weapons were found in a petrol tanker detained by them. The extremists who accompanied the cargo were arrested. The security forces of Kabul found an explosive which was meticulously hidden in a garden of the Afghan capital.

Afghan Army units conducted a successful operation to intercept caravans with weapons in Nangarhar Province and in Khowst and Orgun Districts of Paktika Province. Hundreds of units of fire arms were seized. Afghan border guards routed a group of eight extremists in Konarha Province, who tried to penetrate into Afghan territory from Pakistan.

The clashes between warring opposition groups in Balkh and Vardak Provinces [as received] left 17 people killed and three injured.

Najibullah Views Political, Military Situation

Interviewed by Moscow TV

LD1508185888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1743 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Interview with Afghan President Najibullah by Moscow Television correspondent Mikhail Leshchinskiy in Kabul; date not given—recorded; Najibullah speaks in Dari with superimposed Russian translation]

[Text] [Leshchinskiy] Esteemed Mr President: Soviet people follow the development of events in Afghanistan with particular interest, and this is understandable. How would you describe the military and political situation in the country now, after the completion of the first stage of the Soviet troop withdrawal?

[Najibullah] We are meeting on a noteworthy day. The attention of the whole world is fixed on this date, 15 August. The pages of the world press are animatedly discussing events in Afghanistan, the course and prospects of fulfilling the Geneva agreements.

The first large step toward implementing the Geneva accords has been completed. No one can doubt that Afghanistan and the Soviet Union are honorably fulfilling their obligations in observing the timetable for the return of Soviet troops. The Afghan people have done everything possible to guarantee the withdrawal of the troops, thereby fulfilling their internationalist duty to the great Soviet people.

The irreconcilable armed opposition has linked a plan for seizing large towns and whole provinces with the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Many Western news media have foretold a bloody slaughter in the country. Nothing of the sort has happened, nor will it. Today there are no internationalist troops in 26 out of 32 provinces. However much the enemy has tried, it has not been able to take the initiative.

If we look at the map, we can see that the remaining units and divisions of the limited contingent of Soviet troops are concentrated around the most important transport routes: Hayraton, Kabul, Herat, Kushka. Their main concern is to prevent the interruption of supplies to Afghanistan, and to guarantee the conditions for the completion of the definite withdrawal of troops by 15 February.

I remind you that 38 states, who use this road to transport their goods, have an interest in guaranteeing the safety of the route over the Salang Pass.

[Leshchinskiy] How do you evaluate the Soviet Union's aid to your country?

[Najibullah] I would not restrict the Soviet Union's internationalist aid to Afghanisan to the 10 years following the revolution. As I understand it, in the context of our interstate relations, the term internationalist is, to a considerable extent, a synonym for the word good-neighborly. The history of Afghan-Soviet links is full of examples of the governments of our countries being guided not by the principle of mutual advantage, but by the principle of good-neighborliness; that is, when our states saw the difficulties of the neighboring country as though they were their own, and came to help despite the serious problems arising for themselves. I will mention a few facts: At the start of the 1920's when, after the latest war against colonial Britain, Afghanistan's national rebirth began—although it was in a state of dislocation—the young country of the Soviets gave the Afghan Government R1 million in gold, several aircraft, and other assistance. For its part, our government helped the Soviet Union to scupper the imperialist plan to turn the northern regions of Afghanistan into a springboard for the Basmac movement. In the time of the Volga famine it sent the Soviet people several thousand metric tons of grain free of charge. This was the first page in the golden book of our friendship. Nor should the difficult years of World War II be forgotten. Afghanistan was, perhaps, the only state bordering the USSR not only to declare its neutrality in that war, but to observe it strictly. Moreover, it removed pro-fascist elements from the country, and did not permit subversive action against its neighboring state, which was shedding its blood in the mortal combat against fascism.

Of exceptional importance in strengtening Afghanistan's sovereignty was the USSR's systematic help, beginning in the mid-1950's, for our national army, and the huge contribution of the Soviet people to development of Afghanistan's economy, and to personnel training. Thousands of Soviet experts have helped Afghanistan overcome its centuries-old backwardness. The deep-rooted basis for the decision to introduce the limited contingent of Soviet troops onto the territory of Afghanistan is the objective coincidence of the general national interests of the Afghan and Soviet peoples. Russia's desire to see Afganistan a strong, independent state standing on its own feet, on the one hand, and the historic desire of the Afghan people to have broad economic and cultural links with its great northern neighbor, the chance to rely on its support in tackling the tasks of strengthening its statehood. [sentence as heard]

Friendship with the USSR is something that we, as a nation, hold particularly dear, and of which we are proud. And when the country's sovereignty as a state and its territorial integrity turned out to be under threat as a result of foreign interference, to whom were we to turn for help if not to our friend and neighbor, the USSR? The Soviet leadership and we alike found it very difficult to decide on so major a step as the sending of the limited contingent of Soviet troops to Afghanistan. But the situation that arose was exceptional, too. Afghanistan's patriots could not allow our homeland to become a bridgehead of aggression against the northern neighbor. However, we had extremely insufficient forces of our own to avert this threat.

A majority of simple people accorded a warm and cordial reception to the Soviet soldiers. Restoration of the military and political balance between the forces of aggression and the defenders of the revolution began. Unfortunately, the coordinated interference and military intervention on the part of Pakistan and Iran not only did not cease, but continued to escalate. Detachments of extremists, armed with modern arms, chose peaceful towns, villages and roads as targets for attack.

The Afghan people survived three wars with the British colonialists and they well understand the price of feats of arms and courage. The soldiers-internationalists coped brilliantly with the tasks that had been set. The Soviet soldiers, sergeants, and officers demonstrated a high degree of combat skills, personal valor and courage. The heroism of the Soviet people was truly unexampled.

My fellow countrymen hold the names of the heroes of the Soviet Union, the numerous soldiers and officers, in high esteem. War is war. Great is our sorrow for our comrades-in-arms who lost their lives on Afghan soil. Not all children returned home to their mothers. The wounds inflicted on their souls will never heal.

I remember my meetings on Soviet soil—in Moscow, in Tashkent. I remember the faces of the mothers. I saw their tears when I spoke in the Palace of Congresses. Mothers are mothers. I know that the time will come when Afghans will truly show their gratitude to the Soviet people for their revolutionary solidarity and internationalist help. Throughout those years I daily saw your children carrying out their feats of arms, studying. Mothers can be proud of their sons. All Soviet society can be proud of such young people, who demonstrated strength, courage, resilience, the real masculine character traits. They are reliable soldiers of the Soviet motherland.

The soldiers-internationalists helped defend the Republic. The experience of the joint combat operations and the painstaking and selfless work of military advisers played the determining role in strengthening the armed forces of the Republic, and in training the national military cadres. From the internationalists, returning to their homeland, we received not only a large quantity of fighting equipment, but also tens of fitted out cantonments, garrisons, and outposts. They conveyed to us their knowledge and the high battlecraft skills acquired by experience. The participation of the Soviet servicemen in repair work and in the work on exclusively civilian facilities was of great uplifting significance. The Soviet soldiers constructed schools and hospitals. They also have to their credit hundreds of kilometers of repaired and constructed roads and irrigation canals. This list can be continued.

I wish to recall that reductions of the limited contingent of Soviet troops took place in 1980 and 1986. Afghans saw off the departing regiments with flowers and banners. In those days we in the PDPA Central Committee received 140,000 letters of gratitude.

We called them letters of friendship.

Despite the persistent attempts of extremists to wreck this large-scale military operation, the Soviet generals, officers, and men carried it out without sustaining any losses, impeccably, precisely, and in a coordinated manner. Those iron columns of military equipment traveled along roads of peace; all this was seen by the hundreds of journalists who were present at every stage of the Soviet troops' withdrawal. They are even at this moment in Afghanistan, so glasnost has been ensured in full supply. I am convinced that even after the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops, Afghan-Soviet relations will develop on the basis of the principles of international solidarity.

[Leshchinskiy] I would like to know your assessment of the development of the progressive changes in the country. Has much been achieved in the 10 years of the national democratic revolution?

[Najibullah] The implementation of the progressive changes is a complicated process, but for such a heterogeneous society as Afghanistan's, it is a continuous one. It has been made more complicated to a considerable extent by the resistance of the counterrevolutionary forces and external reaction, and the serious mistakes which were made in the first years after the revolution. The only way to compromise the revolution is to draw the people into a war. Our opponents know this very well. But a revolution is accomplished for peace and creativity, and not for war. But the revolution has in the main fulfilled the main political tasks facing it. A progressive political system which is realizing the broad democratic rights and freedoms of the population has been created.

The turning point came last year with the adoption of the republic's new constitution. For the first time a constitution written not for the people, but by the people, was adopted. Over 2 million Afghans created, discussed, and edited the text of the Basic Law, which absorbed the historical experience of the nationalities and tribes of the country, the principal directives of Islam, and advanced democratic and social concepts, in accordance with the level of public awareness and the material possibilities of our country.

The foundation of the building of a new state system, the new Constitution, laid down three key principles arising from the traditions of assembly democracy—coalition, a multiparty system, and appointment by election. Their interaction has made it possible for all progressive patriotic forces and detachments to participate broadly in the country's sociopolitical life and the running of the state.

Critics have said more than once that the process of democratization in Afghan society has proceeded and is proceeding from the top, without touching the lower classes. I believe such statements to be groundless. The first forms of coalition, with the joint participation in administration of forces who previously confronted each other, emerged at district, major-district, and provincial levels, and emanated from specific local conditions. I have in mind the experience of Kaldar District. Today, the examples of coalition bodies of power are so numerous that one may speak of their dominating position in the state structure.

The differentiation in political views and currents in the vast camp of supporters of the present regime and the course of national reconciliation has quite naturally adopted the form of a multiparty system. Alongside the old parties the Islamic and peasant parties have taken shape on an independent political platform. The political system of our society is indeed becoming a pluralist one, in other words, open for different—including opposition—public forces.

Another two new parties have been registered in the past few days. The Constitution offers extensive opportunities for any party or public organization to participate in governing the country. Society's traditional political life is being restructured under the influence of a new and powerful factor: the factor of appointment by election. Today councils of people's deputies, elected democratically, are operating in the country; 1.6 million people took part in the elections to the National Assembly, the Republic's supreme legislative body. I would like to emphasize that the democratization of the country has been made possible thanks to an amendment to the policy of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and thanks to the consistent course of our rule.

There is no time to dwell in detail on the changes wrought by the revolution in the economic, social, and cultural spheres. But they do exist and are very noticeable. The people have awakened and gotten involved in public life. This is the main thing. Furthermore, I do not just mean those who support our rule, but even those who have not yet laid down their arms and who are fighting for the opposition. I am firmly convinced that there is no power in the world that could nullify the democratic acheivements of the April Revolution and return our people to the Medieval, obscurantist, and evil times. Over these years we have become a different people: The Afghan people are different.

[Leshchinskiy] Honored President, you have touched on the question of how, aside from everything else, the policy of national reconciliation has led to a renewal of existing political forms and to the appearance of what is virtually a new state system. How do you see their viability now?

[Najibullah] I would like to stress that the restructuring of the political system was not an enforced and temporary step, but the logical result of the development of the national democratic process. As I have already said, the newly constructed edifices of the new state system have a firm foundation in Afghan society. The first National Assembly session has ended. The debates there were hard hitting. I do not think constructive criticism weakens our position. More likely, quite the reverse: It has a health-giving effect. Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq has formed the first coalition multiparty government in the post-revolution years; 70 percent of the ministers belong to no party or are representatives of other parties. The new cabinet is boldly going about resolving complex state tasks. The number of ministries is being halved.

We are striving to achieve stability in power by taking into account the peculiarities of Afghan society and the opinion of traditionalist circles. Thus, in particular, three councils have been set up under the president: the constitutional one, which assesses the lawfulness of draft laws from the point of view of constitutional principles; the Islamic one, which determines to what extent a decision accords with the norms of Islamic law; and the Council of Tribal Affairs, which reconciles legislation with the national traditions. The viabilty of the new political structures is weakening bureaucratism, regionalism, and corruption, and conflicts between nationalities.

These problems of running the state, which we inherited from previous regimes, are typical also of every underdeveloped country. Their solution will take quite a lot more time and effort. In my view, the viability of the existing political structures depends on how far they correspond and reflect the interests of various classes and strate of Afghan society. In our work there is now greater flexibility and consideration of local conditions. I will quote an example—the selection of governors. In Qandahar, General Ulumi, commander of the 2d Army Corps, is successfully acting in this role. In Herat, the governorship is led by Khalqyar, a nonparty man, who was until recently working in the Finance Ministry. In Nangahar, it is Shinwarai, a former leader of an armed opposition group. All of them enjoy prestige and support in various strata of the population.

[Leshchinskiy] During the practical implementation of the course of national reconciliation in Afghanistan, this policy received many ardent followers and adherents in various countries and various parts of the world. What, in your view, is the attraction of this idea, its strength?

[Najibullah] The attraction lies in the simplicity and obviousness of its motives, in the clarity and naturalness of the proposed path. The only rational alternative is peace and concord. When I am asked with whom I want to be reconciled, I unfailingly reply: With everyone who is in favor of a peaceful future and an independent, nonaligned Afghanistan. People often ask: What is the limit of your concessions? It is up to where it becomes a question of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, of the right of the Afghan people to decide their own fate. And if the model of principles for national reconciliation is simple, the whole complexity of the task is precisely in transferring it into real actuality, and getting results. This requires great political talent, intense work, and, most importantly, the understanding and support of the whole people. There is only one way out: The path of compromise and negotiaton. Now every honest and sober-minded Afghan must understand that the country needs the cohesion of all forces in national consolidation to which the compromises and coalitions are leading. The philosopher's apothegm is right: A nation cannot be killed except by suicide.

We understand that national reconciliation and national peace are impossible without the participation of the opposing forces, but they, too, must understand that national peace and stability in the country is impossible without the participation of those political forces and strata which have come into existence in the country over the past years. A question arises: Why have the opposition forces not responded to the appeal for reconciliation? Many opposition leaders, both inside the country and outside it, are looking at the problems through a prism of narrow party, tribal, and clan interests. I think that they do not fully realize the depth of the abyss by which they stand. An effect is also provided by the ignorance of the essence and aims of the national reconciliation policy. Of course, outside instigation is having an influence on the opposition's attitude to our proposals—the multimillion hand-outs. Ideological processing from outside has acquired the scale of a real psychological war against the Afghan people. Some people think that the psychological war is being waged against the Kabul government. No, that is a profound misconception. The psychological war is being waged against all Afghans, whether they support the government or are on the side of the opposition. This instigation and the campaign from outside have the aim of not allowing the restoration of national unity, not allowing the restoration of peace in the country. There are very influential forces hostile to Afghanistan which are aspiring to hinder the Afghan renaissance. Understanding the whole complexity of the situation, we always hold the door open for negotiations. We have no preconditions apart from one—a cease-fire and establishment of an armistice.

[Leshchinskiy] And now, if you don't mind, probably the most widely asked question at present: After the final withdrawal of the Soviet troops, will the Afghan Army be able to defend the current regime and the course of national accord?

[Najibullah] Recent months have shown that the republic's armed forces and territorial self-defense units are capable of safeguarding peaceful life. We are devoting close attention to questions of strengthenig the armed forces and improving the national defense system. A guard has been formed and a party appeal is being made. Self-defense units are operating at enterprises everywhere. They are now on duty in residential quarters; 52,000 civilian party members have had military training. Self-defense units have already replaced Ministry of Internal Affairs forces at 120 posts. The patriotic vigilance of the civilian population is rising. Examples of heroism and selflessness have been shown by the defenders of the towns of Qal'ateh-ye, Ghazni, Jalalabad, and Bamian. I have met some of the heroes. Their stories strengthen one's confidence in our people. The Afghan armed forces will be able to defend authority and the policy of reconciliation.

For example, the inhabitants of the small provincial town of Qal'ateh-ye, along with Afghan Army units, managed for a month to repulse attacks by a group of many thousands of extremists. During the bombardment, the Qal'ateh-ye defenders lost 44 people, and the enemy—700 killed and 1,500 wounded. The heroes of Qal'ateh-ye were not broken by the unprecedented and ferocious rocket-propelled bombardment; 21,000 rockets were fired against the town, that is 3 rockets per inhabitant. More than 300 women defended their homes and families alongside the men. The fighters were helped by children.

There are more such examples. The Afghan patriots have made a choice and they will be able to defend it.

When we chose a course of national reconcilation we were counting on universal support. It turns out that the struggle for peace is a no less difficult and costly effort than war. We suggest to our opponents: Let us come to an agreement on everything peacefully. They reply to us with war, war, war. Against whom are they fighting? Against their own brothers. Against what are they fighting? Against the occupation of Afghanistan by the Russians. But the Soviet soldiers have already left 80 percent of our territory. What are they fighting for? To save Islam which, they allege, is in danger. But this is so naive that even the most malicious journalists gave up this theme a year ago. Even they became fed up with lying and inventing fables.

So what are they fighting for? For power? We share power, and that is not just a slogan. If you need posts, then take them—you are welcome—300, 500, or 1,000. But do not kill the people. We open the border so that refugees may cross freely, and they reply with war. Compromise and dialogue presuppose reason, not emotion. Compromise presupposes strong nerves and endurance. The opposition is demanding that we unconditionally accept their proposals only. But why do they not want to listen to ours? We are telling our people the whole truth because the greater the amount of truth, the greater the amount of trust. Why does the opposition not speak in the language of truth? After all, this is where the path to peace begins.

[Leshchinskiy] Could you now describe, briefly of course, the economic and technical cooperation between the USSR and Afghanistan? What new directions have appeared here and what is the outlook?

[Najibullah] During the years of cooperation, more than 130 installations have been brought into service in Afghanistan with the assistance of the Soviet Union, at which around 60,000 workplaces have been created. The industrial production at these installations makes up more than 60 percent of the total production of factory and works industry in the Republic of Afghanistan, and three-quarters of the production in the state sector. More than 53 installations have been built over the past 10 years. They include the high voltage LEP [electric power transmission line] from USSR-Kholm and USSR-Konduz, a permanent satellite communications station, a road and rail bridge over the Amu Darya, four Kamaz motor transport enterprises, one of the largest comprehensive laboratories in the region for the analysis of solid minerals, bakeries, mills, elevators, 7 machine and tractor stations, a cannery in Jalalabad, 10 vocational technical colleges, the central polyclinic and blood transfusion center in Kabul, military hospitals, a social sciences institute, and smelting shop at the Jangalak works.

Here it must be noted that a number of facilities have been equipped and presented as a gift to the Afghan people free of charge. Every year, about 2,000 Afghan citizens travel to the USSR to study and to receive higher and intermediate specialized education. These days, dozens of young people write to me asking to be sent to study in the Soviet Union. Contracts have been signed for building of 40 private sector projects. One of these is the Bakhtar works; since January 1988 it has produced about 2,000 bicycles. A vehicle transport enterprise in Kabul will be a major private sector project. It will be supplied with 300 modern heavy duty super-MAZ vehicles.

The firm trade relations established with the Soviet Union have great significance for the Afghan economy. Today, the foreign trade turnover of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union exceeds $1.2 billion and comprises more than 60 percent of the total foreign trade turnover of Afghanistan. Direct relations between the provinces of Afghanistan and oblasts and republics of the USSR have become a vivid demonstration of internationalism. Using this occasion, I turn to the workers of the city of Moscow, of the republics and oblasts of Central Asia, of Georgia, of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Chelyabinsk, and Orenburg Oblasts with words of cordial gratitude. They and other republics and oblasts are doing more than a little to resolve the acute social and economic problems of Afghanistan. For example, Leningrad has provided great assistance to Herat; Gorkiy to Mazar-e Sharif; Krasnodar to Fayzabad; Barnaul to Ust; Omsk to Pol-e Khomri.

The prospects for further developing economic and technical cooperation are discussed in detail in the joint Soviet-Afghan announcement on the results of the stay in our country of Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR minister of foreign affairs. In the near future a long-term program of economic, technical, and commercial cooperation between our countries up to the year 2000 will be signed. The joint Soviet-Afghan space flight that will take place in 2 weeks is the peak of the bilateral cooperation between our countries. This is an epoch-making event for Afghanistan. One would hope this flight would unite our peoples. After all, the Afghan cosmonauts are the sons of all Afghan people. Wherever Afghans live, they should be proud of their great compatriots. Patriotism is patriotism.

[Leshchinskiy] In our conversation, I would like to touch on another subject. You know, in Kabul I live next to a mosque, and every day, or more accurately, five times a day during prayers, I see that people have every opportunity to freely observe religious customs. What I do not understand is where one of the main slogans of the opposition, "Islam Is in Danger", comes from?

[Najibullah] For a person profoundly religious by nature like a true Afghan Muslim, faith permeats all spheres of his life, personal and public. In many instances a Muslim acts in one way and no other because he is a Muslim. This links the followers of the teaching of Muhammad the prophet in all countries. At the same time, Muslims are historically divided by language, race, and national barriers, state borders, and social class prejudices. In the 20th century, exacerbated political and economic contradictions have literally exploded the Muslim world and divided it into conflicting forces. However bitter it may be to recognize this, it is precisely in the Muslim world, which had been bequeathed by the prophet to live in accord and unison, that the greatest number of regional conflicts are to be found.

In Afghanistan much is done to satisfy the needs and requirements of the believers and the clergy. State efforts are coordinated by a special Ministry of Religion and Endowments. The Supreme Council of Ulema acts as the most authoritative religious body. The valid legislation has been brought into complete accordance with the norms of Islamic law. All seminaries are operating. We have opened an Islamic university, a center for Islamic research.

The state is protecting historical Islamic monuments. Has the intransigent armed opposition, which has raised the banner of the jihad, the holy war for the faith, any such assets? The facts testify to the contrary. The intransigent are conducting a jihad against the very foundations of Islamic dogma, which denies killing and bloodshed in the name of political interests.

Today, it is hard to forecast the Islamic parameters of the future Afghan society. But it is evident that the ideas of the fundamentalists, who advocate setting up in the country an Islamic republic along the lines of Iran, are profoundly and inherently alien to the overwhelming majority of their fellow countrymen. It seems to me that one should not seek a model for the Islamic future elsewhere. The Afghan people have rich religious traditions that match our national spirit and lifestyle. The harmonious development of these traditions is possible in a democratic order, in an independent, sovereign state. If the necessary conditions for this are created, then national accord will be established in the country.

[Leshchinskiy] Your high appraisal of the Geneva accords is known. Has it not changed during the course of events now taking place in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] We see the main condition for a victory of the national reconciliation course as being the strict observance of the Geneva accords. The path taken by all the signatories to the agreements on teaching mutual understanding was a lengthy and complex one. Vivid, and at times dramatic, pages have been added to the history of diplomacy.

I cannot fail to recall with gratitude the Soviet Union's consistent line in the process of settlement and Comrade Gorbachev's enormous personal efforts. The UN Organization, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, and Mr Cordovez have shown deep interest in a favorable outcome of the talks.

As I became convinced during my visits abroad in India, New York, and Cuba, the entire world public greeted the signing of the accords with satisfaction. It would be no exaggeration to say that the Geneva process has exerted a beneficial influence on the solution of other regional conflicts, in South East Asia on the Iran-Iraq front, and in southern Africa. The events of currrent international policy confirm this.

However, the path between documents being signed and implemented has reefs and underwater currents all its own. The Geneva accords, which objectively work for the national reconciliation process, have been resolutely rejected by the opposition leadership, and this has put their friends from Islamabad in a contradictory position. That is why, instead of observing the accords undeviatingly, Pakistan has embarked on a path of ignoring them.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan has, since 15 May, handed to UN representatives 69 notes on interference in Afghanistan's affairs and failures to observe the Geneva accords. Against the background of precise fulfillment of obligations by the Soviet and Afghan sides, Pakistan's position looks extremely destructive. The ship of the Geneva accords is currently listing strongly. Are there forces that can call to order the leadership of this country? Without doubt.

Undoubtedly. In the event of Pakistan continuing to violate the Geneva agreements, Afghanistan and the USSR will determine the necessary actions, which, on behalf of our states, was announced in the joint Soviet-Afghan statement of 7 August this year. However, a settlement around Afghanistan, on the basis of the Geneva agreements, does not affect Afghanistan and the Soviet Union alone—it is a matter for the whole of the world community. The world community ought to understand where the ambitions of representatives of certain countries—of which fanatical Afghan extremists are a blind weapon—lead to.

We call upon the world community to defend the seeds of common sense and hope born of the Geneva agreements. We hope that the mechanism of international guarantees will turn out to be stronger than narrow, mercenary interests. We are ready to accept any benevolent assistance in the cause of internal political settlement—but crude diktat and, moreover, military interference in solving this issue are inadmissible.

[Leshchinskiy] Another thing—I know that you follow attentively Soviet press, radio and television which currently publish a very great deal on Afghanistan. Moreover, different and at times contradictory, appraisals of the recent past are voiced; attempts are being made to forecast the near future. In connection with this, what would you like to wish my colleagues, the Soviet journalists?

[Najibullah] First and foremost health and creative successes; then objectivity and historical truthfulness in setting out the questions connected with Afghanistan.

The Soviet mass media do much to spread the truth about Afghanistan. By this they render a great service both to the Afghan people and to the cause of strengthening international peace. Our thanks to them for this.

In the conditions of glasnost, this great achievement of restructuring, the increased effect of the Soviet press on the processes of forming public opinion on various political problems, including international ones, is tangible. It is desirable that in these new conditions the inquisitiveness of journalists and Afghanistan watchers should not lose political clarity, historical magnitude and social contrasts.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my reflections with Soviet television viewers. Thank you for your attention.

[Leshchinskiy] As well as expressing gratitude for this meeting, I want to say that it is taking place on the eve of a great holiday—Afghanistan's day of independence. Allow me, on behalf of Soviet television viewers, to greet you on this greatest national holiday, which embodies the still continuing struggle of the people of Afghanistan for independence, sovereignty and national integrity. I greet you on this holiday.

[Najibullah] Thank you. In my heart and in the hearts of Afghans there are many words of gratitude and good wishes for the friendly Soviet people, for Lenin's revolutionary party, carrying out a unique restructuring of society.

Confirms Reconciliation Policy

LD1208121588 Moscow TASS in English 1044 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 12 TASS—The Republic of Afghanistan strictly adheres to all commitments under the Geneva agreements, Afghan President Najibullah has pointed out.

Addressing a meeting of the Islamic Consultative Council at the president [as received] in Kabul, Najibullah confirmed the intention to go on with the course towards national reconciliation.

The president pointed to inhuman actions committed by extremist opposition forces and emphasised that they ran counter to Islamic principles.

He called on the council members to use the prestige of the clergy in the interests of terminating bloodshed and achieving peace in the country.

Ministry Briefing Notes Pakistan Violations

Perfilyev Comments

PM1208101188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 4

[G. Charodeyev report on 9 August USSR Foreign Ministry press briefing: "Follow the Agreements to the Letter"]

[Excerpts] V. Perfilyev, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Information Administration, addressed Soviet and foreign journalists at a scheduled briefing in the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center. [passage omitted]

Pakistan intends to honestly abide by the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan. This was stated by Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan following talks in Moscow that ended recently. There is no doubt, Perfilyev said, that this statement was necessary. The Pakistani side is aware that the situation could be more favorable in this respect. But on returning to his own country, despite the numerous facts—obvious to all—pointing to Pakistan's flagrant violation of the Geneva agreements, Yaqub Khan accused the Soviet Union of breaching these agreements while, according to him, Pakistan is honestly abiding by them.

The Pakistani press sometimes voices the idea that the Geneva agreements do not mean that Islamabad must renounce its sympathy for the mujahidin. We are witness every day to the form this sympathy takes.

However, in an attempt not to overly parade its actions in support of the Afghan opposition in circumvention of the Geneva agreements, the Pakistani side is doing its utmost to impede the activity of the UN control mechanism, which also runs counter to the agreements, the USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman stressed.

Wakil on 'Violations'

LD1508181288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Afghan Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abdul Wakil today held a press conference at the USSR Foreign Affairs Ministry Press Center. Speaking to Soviet and foreign journalists he said in part:

The Republic of Afghanistan, which is struggling against foreign interference, is seeking constructive ways to establish peace, says 'Abdul Wakil. The signing of the Geneva agreements on a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan has laid down firm foundations for the solution of one of the most complex international problems, opened a way toward putting an end to the war and bloodshed, and indicated possibilities for overcoming regional conflicts in various parts of the world.

However, contrary to the Geneva agreements, advanced weapons for the rebels continue to be delivered from Pakistan's territory. We have reliable intelligence that Afghan extremists in Pakistan send directives directly to their people in Afghanistan. These acts run counter to normalization of relations of peace and security in the region. But Pakistan continues to make efforts to conceal the violations of international agreements and mislead the world public.

As for the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanstan, 'Abdul Wakil went on, they are fully meeting their obligations. The withdrawal of Soviet troops is being implemented in accordance with the schedule and by today half the Soviet soldiers-internationalists have already returned home. The Afghan Government is firmly pursuing a policy of national reconciliation. One confirmation of this is the holding of parliamentary elections on a broad democratic basis and the representative composition of the government itself.

The minister emphasized that violation of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan could bring about actions by Afghanistan and the Soviet Union dictated by the arising situation.

In conclusion Afghanistan's foreign minister expressed the hope that the United States, as one of the guarantors of the Geneva agreements, would not remain unconcerned about their violations by Pakistan and would exert appropriate influence upon it.

Afghanistan Protests Pakistani Air Violation

LD1308141988 Moscow TASS in English 1356 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 13 TASS—Another 200 Afghan refugees have returned from Iran to Herat Province. 50 people returned from abroad to Samangan Province, the BAKHTAR news agency reports.

The security bodies of Afghanistan found and rendered harmless in Nangarhar nine missiles trained already by extremists on residential areas. Apart from it, as a result of a successful operation a cache with arms and munitions was found in the Batsawul district.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan sent the 69th protest note to the U.N. observers in Kabul. The note contained a request of the Afghan Government to thoroughly investigate the facts of the violation of Geneva accords by Pakistan and to inform the Afghan side and a representative of the U.N. secretary general of the results of the investigaton.

A charge d'affairs ad interim of Pakistan in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan where a protest was made to him in connection with the violation of the Afghan air space by Pakistani warplanes on August 4 and 5. The Afghan Government demanded that Pakistan refrain from the repetition of such actions which lead to the aggravation of relations between the two countries.

Pakistani Aid to Afghan Opposition Noted

LD1608104188 Moscow TASS in English 0953 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul August 16 TASS—In the recent past the Pakistani ruling quarters show a desire to give weapons and ammunition to the most irreconcilable part of the Afghan armed opposition, above all the Islamic Party of Afganistan (IPA), the Islamic Society of Afghanistan (ISA) and the Islamic Alliance for Liberation of Afghanistan (IALA). At the same time Pakistani secret services extensively use members of the above parties, for instance the IPA, to track down and arrest those people from among Afghan refugees who speak out for returning home.

The Pakistani side also continues participating directly in armed operations of the Afghan opposition. For instance, in the recent past 30 members of the Pakistani people's volunteer corps from the city of Landi Kotal were detailed to a leader of IPA armed detachments at the latter's request. Besides, the command of a brigade of the people's volunteer corps stationed in that area put the task to its posts near the Afghan border to render assistance with artillery fire to the armed opposition when attacking government troops.

Between 20 and 30 lorries with arms and ammunition travel daily from Peshawar to Nangarhar Province alone. Arms are distributed among gangs operating in Nangarhar and in some other provinces of Afghanistan.

According to the latest data, a big batch of longer-range rocket-propelled grenades was brought from Pakistan to Afghanistan. They are stockpiled in the Shakar Darreh gorge in an out-of-the-way village and will be used to rocket Kabul.

There is also information on the arrival of 150 mutineers from Lowgar Province to Miram Shah (Pakistan). They will undergo a three-month course of combat drilling at the training centre of the Nazerbag [placename as received] refugee camp.

According to some data, in the near future a U.S. transport will come to Karachi (Pakistan). It will bring a large shipment of heavy sophisticated weapons for detachments of "the alliance of the seven". The weapons will be handed over to the leaders of "the Alliance of the Seven" through the assistant of Pakistani President Ziaul Haq on military affairs.

According to available information, a French cameraman who had infiltrated into Afghanistan, hit a mine and was seriously wounded the other day during his travel along a caravan route from Kangay Mund to the area of Saran Jadran [placenames as received] Khowst district. He was brought by the opposition to their Jawar [placename as received] base and then transferred to the city of Miram Shah (Pakistan).

Special monitoring groups from among officers of secret services, military units and the people's volunteer corps were set up to exercise permanent control over the stay of refugees at their places of residence. They inspect these places in Lwargay and its environs. Refugees suspected of intending to return to Afghanistan are deported in an unknown direction.

The most irreconcilable part of the opposition continues recruiting people from among Afghan refugees in Pakistan to dispatch them to the USA for training at "courses of guerilla warfare". For instance, some time ago IPA representatives tried to conduct appropriate work among young people in the Chak Dara refugee camp, promising cash remuneration to each of them. They managed to recruit 30 people from camps situated in the area of residence of the Bajawur tribe.

Indian Agency Says Pakistan Breaks Accords

PM1208130188 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "They Are Violating Accords"]

[Text] Delhi, 9 Aug—The unceasing gross violations by Pakistan of the Geneva agreements are creating a threat to the cause of a rapid peaceful settlement to the situation in Afghanistan. A Central News Service (CNS) information bulletin disseminated here says this. While the Soviet Union is consistently fulfilling its obligations and withdrawing its forces from Afghanistan, the Ziaul Haq administration is violating virtually all the accords reached with Pakistan's participation. Particularly disturbing is the fact, CNS notes, that the United States, which plays the role of one of the guarantors of the fulfillment of the agreements, is closing its eyes to Islamabad's nonobservance of their provisions and continues to supply modern weapons to Pakistan and the Afghan opposition groupings which are based there.

To carry out the armed attacks against Afghanistan, the agency points out, an extensive network of centers for training fighters from the Afghan opposition has been set up on Pakistani territory. At present more than 130 such centers are in operation there, and the instructors at many of them are officers from the Pakistani Army.

Soon after the signing of the Geneva agreements Pakistan also sanctioned the creation on its territory of a certain "transitional government" which included the leaders of the main Afghan opposition groupings. Shelling of Afghan territory is regularly carried out from Pakistani territory.

Ignoring repeated warnings from the USSR and the Afghan Governmenton the inadmissibility of violations of the Geneva agreements, and also the possible serious consequences of this shortsighted policy, Islamabad continues its adventurist course to undermine the Geneva accords. The Ziaul Haq administration's dangerous game is threatening peace and stability throughout the region, CNS stresses.

Military Paper Views Afghanistan Situation

PM1508155788 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 88 First Edition pp 1, 5

[Colonel G. Miranovich "Military Observer's Notes": "Afghanistan: Alarms and Hopes"]

[Text] Probably there is hardly a single person among us, regardless of whether or not he has ever visited that country, who has not been tormented by the thought: When will peace finally come to it? And so it is now. Our military contingent, which has defended the Republic's national independence and sovereignty for 9 years, is now returning home, but the questions have not been removed from the agenda. What is more, it is currently acquiring an additional slant. On chatting with various people and reading the editors' "Afghan" mail, in addition to the constant concern for those who are continuing to fulfill their international duty you increasingly frequently hear the alarming question: "What will happen afterward....?"

It is evidently natural that both friends and enemies of the Republic of Afghanistan throughout the world link its present and future to the implementation of the agreements signed in Geneva 14 April and, in particular, to the withdrawal from the country of subunits and units of the limited contingent of Soviet troops, which began 3 months ago on the basis of the accords. Thus, despite the fact that there is an ambiguous attitude toward this act, including on the part of Afghans themselves—both in Kabul and in the provinces I have met people who, let us put it this way, do not very much want our troops to be withdrawn—the view of the problem of national reconciliation is, on the whole, becoming increasingly sober. Although this "sobering up" is, perhaps, taking place not as quickly as it should.

Indeed. You might think that it must already be clear to everyone that there is no sensible alternative to the consistent implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and the strict fulfillment of the Geneva agreements by all the sides. There is no other path to peace and concord on Afghan soil. And it is only to be regretted that the path to understanding, such a seemingly simple thing, was so long and hard. According to calculations by the Republic's government, the total damage inflicted by the counterrevolution on the country's economy has already exceeded 265 billion afghanis. And how many human lives this so-called undeclared war has taken!

And yet the fratricide continues. In Kabul alone more than 150 people have been killed and more than 200 injured and seriously maimed as a result of adventurist acts by extremists over the past 2 and ½ months. People not interested in settling the Afghan problem were to blame for the bloodshed even during the days of the Muslim 'Id al-Adha feast, which the Republic's government had proclaimed days of peace and armistice among Afghans.

The enemies of the program of dialogue and compromise, of the program of national reconciliation on a truly democratic basis that has been proposed and is being actively implemented by the new leadership of the PDPA, are known. They are, above all, the so-called "Alliance of Seven"—the Afghan counterrevolution based in Pakistan laying claim to undivided power in Kabul. Calling themselves "the Afghan people's true representatives," the leaders of the "alliance" headed by Sayyed Gaylani have even announced the creation of a so-called "transitional government" of Afghanistan. A list of ministers of this "government" has been published, and its chairman is Engineer Ahmad Shah, who is not unknown for his pro-U.S. views.

Of course, Pakistan, which has cozied up to Ahmad Shah and his "cabinet" and makes considerable profits on arms deliveries to ill-assorted bandit formations, would very much like to pass off this apology for a "government" as some kind of symbol of the unity of all anti-Afghan forces. Life convinces us, however, that the creation of the "transitional government," as well as, incidentally, the formation of the "Islamic Alliance of Mujahidin of Afghanistan" (the "Alliance of Seven") itself, is by no means a sign of the opposition's cohesion or of concord among the leaders of its constituent groups, which are constantly vying with each other and differ from each other in terms of social base, programs, and approach to the problem of reconciliation. On the contrary, as observations show, their rivalry has recently been intensifying, frequently to the point where internal strife escalates into armed clashes.

I recall the mountains blazing at night around our military camp not far from Fayzabad, the administrative center of Badakhshan Province. This was at the end of June. The motorized infantry regiment stationed at the camp was preparing to return home. I remember that Lieutenant Colonel B. Gromov, commander of the contingent, did not order but asked the officers to show restraint and not give in to provocations. But here there was shooting and explosions.... It turned out that precisely those people from whom the garrison was expecting provocations—local and newly arrived antigovernment formations—were sorting out "relations" among themselves.

Such clashes among the motley opposition groups became appreciably more frequent after 15 May. This is perfectly understandable: The Soviet troop withdrawal is increasing the polarization within the camp of the enemies of reconciliation. But it is obviously not only and, perhaps, not even so much the point that, say, the groups gathered under the flag of Islamic traditionalism, or as we call them, the moderates, advocate a return to the former, "traditional" usages (even including the monarchy), while the terrorists—those who preach Islamic fundamentalism—advocate continuing hostilities "until Kabul capitulates completely." Sometimes everything appears far more prosaic. Neighbors who refuse to share the booty kill each other, and a struggle is being waged to extend "zones of control...." And it also happens that bandits of one stripe come together in mortal combat, as happened in Konar Province, where an armed clash between two gangs of the "National Salvation Front of Afghanistan," arising out of disagreements over the distribution of weapons and ammunition, resulted in the deaths of their leaders.

And yet we should not oversimplify the complex, contradictory, painful processes which determine to a considerable extent the state and conduct of the Afghan opposition today. Of course, it is not only the thirst for profit which is the cause of squabbling in their ranks, although this feature is known to be far from alien to the mujahidin.

Differences in views on tactics, for example, play their part: Should they take Kabul, continue attacking Soviet troops....?

There are also more profound causes. There are more and more people in the armed detachments operating directly on Afghan territory who are displeased with the leaders of the "Alliance of Seven" who live comfortably in Pakistan. Many "field commanders," as the leaders of these detachments are called, are also displeased with them. They—who are in fact responsible for "banking up the fire" of the undeclared war—have taken a very skeptical attitude toward the creation by the Peshawar "alliance" of the notorious "transitional government," in which, as is known, no room has been found for any of them.

The following fact, in particular, appears significant in this connection. At the time when we were preparing to withdraw our troops from Badakhshan, influential representatives of the armed opposition gathered in the Warsaj district southwest of Fayzabad. The "field commanders" decided to set up their own provisional government as a sign of protest at the fact that they had been ignored when the "transitional government" was formed. They "elected" its head.

Even though unanimity was not achieved even here—rebel representatives from nine provinces voted for Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the military leader of the "Islamic Society of Afghanistan" in the country's northeastern regions, and those from eight provinces voted for Turan Isma'il, the opposition members' leader in Herat Province, while the commanders of formations of the "Islamic Party of Afghanistan" refused absolutely to take part in the election—the very fact that an event of this kind was held says a great deal. However hard foreign patrons of opposition members try to smooth over the disagreements in and around the "transitional government" itself—which they watch over in circumvention of the Geneva agreements, predicting the fall of Kabul before the supposedly united front of antigovernment forces—the truth will come out. What unity can there be if Mir Muhammad Yusef, a prominent opposition figure from Badakhshan Province and previously commander of an armed rebel detachment in his home district, returned home from Pakistan apparently on purpose, literally following our regiment's departure from Fayzabad? And he did not return alone, bringing with him more than 1,000 compatriots.

Such a thing is not so rare. After the Republic's government adopted the policy of national reconciliation, more than 50,000 fighters of armed opposition detachments have sided with the legitimate power. And yet every such return, like the return of more than 140,000 refugees who left for Iran and Pakistan in the past, cannot fail to gladden us. Seeing how rigorously the Geneva agreements are being fulfilled by the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan, more and more people are coming to understand the need for reconciliation. And this process is already irreversible. Despite Islamabad's direct violations of the Geneva agreements, the obstacles being erected in the way of the return of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan, and the continuing sallies by terrorists in Kabul and the provinces, the cause of national reconciliation is moving in the right direction, as USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze emphasized during his recent visit to Afghanistan.

Yes, the withdrawal of the Soviet military contingent is continuing, in strict accordance with the Geneva accords and according to the agreed schedule. General Ziaul Haq, president of Pakistan, in an interview for INSIGHT magazine, described the Geneva agreements on Afghanistan as a fig leaf, agreements which the world has assessed as a model applicable to the settlement of other regional conflicts as well, and began accusing the Soviet Union of supposedly violating them, that it had halted the troop withdrawal and "transferred an extra 10,000 soldiers to Kabul." It is certainly no coincidence that even the White House and the U.S. State Department dissociated themselves from his assertion. You cannot defy the facts, as the saying goes.

And the facts are these—today there is not a single Soviet soldier left in the eastern, northeastern, and southeastern provinces of Afghanistan. Units stationed in the north and south of the country are returning home. In short, we are working toward ensuring that by 15 August, as provided for in the Geneva agreements, just half of our troops which were on the Republic's territory remain there. UN military observers are following their withdrawal. They are the very people whom, incidentally, according to available information, the Peshawar "seven" intend to select as the target of their next terrorist acts.

The observers, as is known, have so far had no complaints against our side. How will things go with the withdrawal of the second half of the limited contingent of Soviet troops? This too will probably depend on whether the Pakistani and other foreign patrons of the armed Afghan opposition finally realize that the agreements on settling the conflict, which were reached with such difficulty, are, all the same, not a fig leaf.

The process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan is taking place despite the obstacles erected by the opposition, despite the clashes of very diverse and sometimes mutually exclusive viewpoints. The mistakes, exaggerations, and distortions that happened in the past also tell. The PDPA and President Najibullah are having to make a considerable effort to overcome this legacy; to reinforce people's faith in the strength and justice of the legitimate authorities and in the reliability of the Republic's armed defense; and to enable them to see for themselves that the problem of national reconciliation not only must but also can be resolved by political means.

Much has already been done on this path. A constitution has been adopted which officially recognizes the multiparty nature of the political system and the mixed nature of the economy and confirms the important role of Islam in the life of the country. The National Council of the Republic of Afghanistan has been elected on its basis. A new government has been created, 70 percent of whose members, including Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq, are not in the PDPA. Many of those who used to be in the opposition head local organs of power. Measures are being taken to raise the people's living standard and to enhance the armed forces' readiness to independently defend the motherland's independence.

Our military contingent is giving the Republic considerable assistance in resolving vital problems. It is not only a question of the many civilian projects built and restored by our soldiers. On leaving the places where we were stationed, we transfer to the Afghan Army units not only the zone of responsibility but also the military camps equipped with everything necessary for life. Training centers have been set up, where specialists in operating their equipment are trained from among Afghan servicemen. I have been present at the handover of such camps. I can testify that everything there was working efficiently. In the Political Department of the Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops I was told that the total value of the material assets which we are handing over will come to approximately R700 million.

These are the facts. Not invented by Western voices—about booby-trap mines and unmapped minefields which we are allegedly leaving behind in Afghanistan—but real facts. And whatever persons on the other side of the ocean researching our Army may say, we are returning home with a clear conscience and with a sense of duty done. The Soviet soldier has never permitted himself—and still less will he permit himself now—acts directed against the peaceful population.

Incidentally, what cock-and-bull stories about Afghanistan and the Soviet troops leaving the country the Western mass media disseminate today, citing some diplomatic sources in Islamabad. Not that this is surprising. The inability of the disunited armed opposition formations, which are frequently at odds with each other, to conduct large-scale operations strikes hard at the "authority" of the Peshawar "Seven" and their patrons. The leaders of the antigovernment forces and their non-Afghan accomplices have been forced to resort to psychological attacks to somehow boost their shaken military prestige in the eyes both of those who finance them and of those whom they intimidate by promising either the fall of Kabul itself or the capture of only the border settlement of Spin Buldak.

Of course, we also must not underestimate the tactic of spreading rumors, to which the opposition has recently been resorting increasingly frequently. PDPA local organs and Afghan Army commanders and political workers are having to take countermeasures. In particular, agitation detachments are being widely used for this purpose. They hold rallies with the local population and participate in meetings of village elders, where they tell people the truth about the situation in the country and about the Soviet troop withdrawal.

Counterpropaganda work is also being done in the Army itself. And the Armed Forces' clergy participates in it. Lt Col Muhammad Khamayum, commander of an infantry regiment, whose acquaintance we made in one of the provinces, said, for example, that the regimental mullah preaches sermons twice a week on questions of the policy of national reconciliation and the fulfillment of the Geneva agreements, and also discusses current events. While interpreting all events from a religious viewpoint, the mullah at the same time condemns deserters and explains the need to handle weapons with care and to study military hardware.

The fact that the leaders and members of PDPA provincial organizations and Army commanders, political workers, and clergy see the all possible strengthening of the Republic's Armed Forces as one of their chief tasks, and that they act in concert on this matter is one more good sign on the way to national reconciliation—a sign that attests that even with the complete withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, there will be someone there to defend the country.

Afghan Senate Chairman Habibi Interviewed

PM1508111188 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 3

["IZVESTIYA Interview" with Doctor Mahmud Habibi, chairman of the Senate of the Afghan National Council and corresponding member of the Afghan Academy of Sciences, by V. Kukushkin: "Peace and Tranquility for Afghanistan"; date and place not given—first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] By 15 August, half of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan will have been withdrawn. In this context, Doctor Mahmud Habibi, chairman of the Senate of the Afghan National Council and corresponding member of the Afghan Academy of Sciences, gave an interview for IZVESTIYA.

[Habibi] First of all, I would like to note the truly historical importance of the meeting between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, held this 7 April.

The Tashkent meeting was held little more than a year after the day the policy of national reconciliation was proclaimed in Afghanistan. This period became a reflection of the new political thinking. It showed that the chosen path is the only correct one, and that it accords with the interests of the Afghan people.

Following the proclamation of this policy, the Afghan Government took important measures aimed at democratizing the country's social life. The first step along this path was the drafting and adoption of Afghanistan's new constitution. The commission for elaborating the draft constitution, in whose work I took part, studied the constitutions of many socialist, Islamic, and developing countries. We managed to create a constitution for Afghanistan which is truly democratic in every sense and in all aspects.

[Kukushkin] How do you assess the coordinated actions of the USSR and Afghanistan on the fulfillment of the Geneva agreements?

[Habibi] The Afghan people perceive the Geneva agreements as a major victory for the policy of national reconciliation. But this victory will fully materialize only when all parties to the Geneva agreements fulfill the pledges they have undertaken in their entirety.

The Soviet Union and Afghanistan are showing the utmost responsibility concerning the implementation of this important international agreement. The first stage of the withdrawal of Soviet troops began soon after it was signed. By 15 August, half the internationalist servicemen on Afghan territory will have returned home. In this way an important pledge contained in the Geneva agreements will have been fulfilled fully and on schedule.

In accordance with the agreement between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the voluntary return of refugees, our government took all necessary measures to ensure proper conditions for the homecoming of Afghans from abroad. It is well known that over 140,000 persons have already returned home. Their number would have been much greater if obstacles to their return home had not been raised and they had not been kept abroad by force.

The Afghan Government maintains close contacts with the United Nations, under whose auspices the Geneva agreements were elaborated. At present a group of observers from this international organization is operating in the country. Their task is to identify any violations of the Geneva agreements committed by any side. The Afghan Government has created all conditions to enable the UN observers to perform their duties without hindrance.

The Soviet Union's sincere interest in the earliest possible settlement of the situation around Afghanistan is eloquently proved by USSR Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze's statement during his latest meeting with Pakistan's foreign minister, in which he noted that the Geneva agreements provide an important basis for normalizing the conflict.

[Kukushkin] What assessment can be made of the actions of the Pakistani authorities, which made serious pledges within the framework of the agreements they signed in Geneva?

[Habibi] In accordance with Article III of the bilateral agreement, the Pakistani Government pledged to facilitate the repatriation of Afghan refugees on its territory. Unfortunately, the Pakistani authorities are not only not cooperating but actually hindering by all means the return home of Afghan refugees, not even hesitating to apply even the most cruel measures.

Furthermore, caravans with weapons for the opposition and terrorist hit men trained in camps on Pakistani territory are slipping into our country from Pakistan. Rocket projectiles delivered to Afghanistan from abroad are used to shell civilian cities. Their explosions kill the civilian population—old people, women, and children.

The Afghan Government has handed to the UN mission 68 notes citing instances of the violation of the Geneva agreements by Pakistan. The UN representatives hand these notes over to the Pakistani authorities, but every time they receive stereotyped formal answers. Nonetheless, our notes are documents on whose basis Afghanistan will determine its stance regarding violations of the Geneva agreements.

The continuation of violations of this kind could lead to the undermining of the Geneva agreements. The Soviet Union and Afghanistan could find themselves forced to review certain issues and take appropriate actions.

[Kukushkin] In your opinion, what is the effect of the Geneva agreements on the situation in the world, and specifically on the settlement of regional conflicts?

[Habibi] The present conflict in Afghanistan is one of the most acute in the world. There are, of course, numerous other conflicts in the world, but this is a special conflict. A fratricidal war is being waged in Afghanistan. There has been too much destruction and too many victims.

Nonetheless, I believe that, provided the major efforts made by the UN representatives and the governments of the Soviet Union and Afghanistan yield positive results in terms of the elimination of the conflict, this will no doubt have a most positive effect on the solution of other regional problems.

If the demonstrations of goodwill result in the establishment of peace, the restoration of the ruined economy, and development along the path of progress in Afghanistan, this will set a good example for all others.

There is also another very important conclusion. Since a military solution has still not been found to this conflict which is relatively small on a world scale, it is perfectly clear that now it is simply impossible to solve the world's problems by military means. This is perfectly well realized in the Soviet Union. The Soviet initiatives in the cause of strengthening peace and reducing and destroying arms on a global scale are a wonderful confirmation of this.

[Kukushkin] In your view, what are the prospects for the development and strengthening of economic ties and beneficial cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan?

[Habibi] I had an opportunity to discuss these questions with Foreign Minister E.A. Shevardnadze during his recent visit to Kabul. The joint Soviet-Afghan announcement that was adopted then pointed out that a Long-Term Program for the Development of Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation between the two countries through the year 2000 will be signed during the imminent official friendly visit to the USSR by Afghanistan's Prime Minister Muhammad Hasan Sharq. The program will set clear-cut guidelines for boosting Afghanistan's economy. Particular attention will be paid to the introduction of new forms of cooperation including the expansion of trade with the private sector and establishment of joint Soviet-Afghan enterprises and mixed cooperative organizations.

Much attention will be given to the further development of industrial ties between Soviet republics and Afghan provinces and to the training of Afghan national cadres needed for the development of our country's economy, science, and culture.

The program for cooperation between our countries is comprehensive and very impressive. But we will succeed in fully implementing it only if all provisions of the Geneva agreements are strictly fulfilled. Peace and tranquility must at long last reign in Afghanistan.

Western Misreporting of Afghan Events Alleged

PM1208135588 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[V. Vavilov "TASS Commentary for KRASNAYA ZVEZDA": "Scotched Rumors"]

[Text] All manner of cock-and-bull stories about the situation in Afghanistan and about the Soviet troops, who are leaving the country in strict compliance with the Geneva agreements, are being spread by the Western media.

France's Channel 1, for example, has "delighted" its viewers with yet another scoop: Describing the situation in Afghanistan and the stepping up of armed opposition activity, the television company informed the world of the "capture of a number of provincial cities, including Jalalabad—which is of important strategic significance—by Afghan fighters."

AFP, for its part, reported the other day that detachments of the Afghan opposition had destroyed two Soviet aircraft at an airfield in Qandahar and that a third had been downed by a Stinger missile in the suburbs of that city.

A correspondent of America's AP reported "large Soviet troop losses in Lowgar region, where 18 Soviet servicemen were killed by Afghan opposition fighters during an engagement."

U.S. and French correspondents file these reports from Islamabad and they are based, in their words, on information received from diplomatic sources that prefer to remain anonymous.

Where, then, have these "diplomatic sources" extracted such apparently important information about events occurring in a neighboring country?

Simply out of the air, since these, like many other similar insinuations, bear absolutely no correspondence to reality. Moreover, as is well known, Soviet troops left Lowgar long ago, and that alone rules out any such engagements taking place there. In other words, the Soviet Army has lost no aircraft or soldiers. As far as Jalalabad and a number of other provincial cities are concerned, according to reports from Kabul, the government is fully in control of the situation, and the opposition has not only not taken a single provincial city but has not not taken a single district one either. The Afghan Army has enough men and materiel to duly repulse the "intransigents," who, contrary to "reason," do not want a peaceful settlement and are intent on resolving all questions by fratricidal war alone.

Why, then, are such rumors spread? Obviously not to promote the process of a political settlement in any way. Certain circles manifestly have no interest in eliminating the center of tension in Afghanistan and are trying by absurd fabrications to fan the flames of this dying conflict.

But scotched rumors are impotent.

Public Meeting Marks Afghan Independence
LD1308051688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow, 12 Aug (TASS)—Soviet-Afghan friendship was born in a difficult period when revolutionary Russia was fighting for its own freedom. However, even then the people of Afghanistan encountered complete understanding of their needs and a truly internationalist attitude in the ranks of Russian working people, it was said today in Moscow at a solemn public meeting marking the 69th anniversary of the restoration of Afghanistan's independence.

In past decades, the speakers noted, there has been a significant transformation in the public life of Afghanistan. After the April revolution, which proclaimed the equality of all ethnic groups and tribes, the country's international position grew stronger and its role in the Nonaligned Movement increased. True to its internationalist duty, the USSR today continues to give Afghanistan staunch support. The Soviet people, it was said at the meeting, express satisfaction with the development of bilateral relations.

Our people love their homeland dearly, said 'Abdurrahim Hatif, vice president of Afghanistan, chairman of the Central Council of the National Front, and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission on National Reconciliation. They are ready to do everything necessary to defend its independence. He expressed warm thanks to the Soviet Union for its comprehensive aid and support for the just cause of the Afghan people.

Leadership Bodies Greet Indian Leaders
PM1508141488 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

[Independence Day message to Indian President Ramaswami Venkataraman and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers; date not given]

[Text] To His Excellency Mr Ramaswami Venkataraman, president of the Republic of India;

To His Excellency Mr Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of the Republic of India:

In connection with India's national holiday of Independence Day, we send to you and, through you, to the government and people of friendly India, cordial congratulations from the Soviet people and leadership.

Independent India has secured weighty achievements in the cause of economic building, the upsurge of education and culture, and the development of science and technology. India enjoys great prestige in international affairs, where it pursues a consistent course of ridding the planet of nuclear weapons and violence and eliminating all forms of economic and racial discrimination.

People in the Soviet Union highly value the relations of friendship and broad, mutually useful cooperation with India. Our countries were the first to put into practice in interstate relations much of what is termed the new political thinking and constructive approaches to the resolution of such key current problems as disarmament, the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts, and building a just international economic order. The cooperation between the USSR and India in the sphere of trade, the economy, science and technology, and culture is becoming increasingly multifaceted and intensive. The holding of national festivals of the USSR in India and India's in the USSR on an unprecedented scale brought our peoples still closer together.

We are confident that the traditionally friendly relations between the USSR and India will continue to strengthen and develop on the basis of the Treaty on Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation and the Delhi declaration on the principles of a nuclear-free and nonviolent world, for the benefit of the Soviet and Indian peoples and in the interests of universal peace and security.

We wish good health and successes to you personally, esteemed Mr President and Mr Prime Minister, and happiness and prosperity for the great Indian people.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

The USSR Council of Ministers

17th Anniversary of Indian Treaty Marked

PM1608084588 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Aug 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Noteworthy Anniversary"]

[Text] On 11 August there was a ceremonial meeting of the Moscow public devoted to the 41st anniversary of Indian independence and the 17th anniversary of the Treaty on Peace, Friendship, and Cooperation Between the USSR and India. A report was delivered by M.I. Shchadov, USSR minister of the coal industry.

In their speeches T. Kaul, Indian ambassador to the USSR, S. Patil, leader of the delegation of the Friends of the Soviet Union Society and Indian Minister of State for Civil Aviation and Tourism, and S.S. Minkhas, head of the delegation of the Indian-Soviet cultural society and speaker of the Punjab legislative assembly, spoke in particular about the public's increasing role in strengthening the two countries' ties.

Taking part in the meeting were V.S. Astrauskas, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister.

Soviet Relations With Bahrain Discussed

LD1308162188 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] On 14 August, Bahrain celebrates the 17th anniversary of its independence. This small Gulf state with a population of over 500,000 has traveled an uneasy road. Many of its difficulties were linked to objective factors, especially the change in the international oil market and the drop in foreign currency earnings from the export of oil and its byproducts, which used to provide Bahrain with more than 20 percent of its income. It is worth mentioning that the redirection of the national economy toward developing industry, services, and banking has been fruitful. Also, the decision on an independent Bahraini economy has facilitated this to a large extent. A large number of the companies, factories, and joint ventures are owned jointly, with 51 percent owned by Bahraini citizens.

Bahrain is a member of the GCC, and it pursues a coordinated foreign policy with the other members of the Council. Nonalignment has become the cornerstone of Bahrain's policy. The USSR was among the first states to recognize the independence of Bahrain in 1971. However, diplomatic relations between our two countries have not been established. Kuwait, the UAE, Oman, and Qatar have established normal diplomatic relations with the USSR. At present, only Bahrain and Saudi Arabia among the Gulf states do not have normal diplomatic ties with the USSR. Bahrain reached this conclusion concerning this unnatural situation: Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al-Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain, has recently stated that the USSR is a great and powerful state and it is clear that the time has come for reconsidering the situation regarding the establishment of diplomatic relations with the USSR. It is believed that a positive solution to this problem will respond to the interests of the two countries and their peoples, and that it will make a positive contribution to the struggle for international security.

Visiting Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Interviewed

LD1208183188 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Interview with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given]

[Text] We now present to you an interview with the head of the Arab League Committee, Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The Soviet Union has played a very important role in the search for ways to solve the Iranian-Iraqi conflict: This was told to our correspondent, Sergey Yevgenev, by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, head of the Arab League committee on the Iranian-Iraqi conflict, which has paid a short working visit to the Soviet Union. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah talked about the current situation in the region with our correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Al-Sabah] First of all, we were very pleased that Iran has accepted Resolution 598, and the decision about direct negotiations. We were pleased, as was the whole world, about this decision, considering the destruction of this 8-year war. Our hopes now are that this acceptance should breed trust, because wars do not solve problems; only direct contacts between protagonist countries can solve problems. There are several examples of this, such as what took place in Vietnam and in a number of countries. Therefore, we have high hopes that the Iranian officials and people will understand this step, which has pleased the Arab region above all, and the whole world.

We hope that as soon as possible this meeting will succeed in solving all the problems that gave rise to the war. At the same time, we aspire to ending these problems, because we are in a war-torn region—the Arab Gulf. We also hope to implement Article 8 of Resolution 598, and for a meeting between the countries of the region. We want the UN Security Council to prepare a treaty and an agreement on stability in the region and on non-interference in the internal affairs of each country. This is the right attitude, which we always want to prevail. God willing, I hope that following this accord, direct meeting, and the cease-fire, a second step will be achieved, namely an agreement in the Gulf region as a whole.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. Do you think that the Soviet Union has played a role in this issue—finding a peaceful end to the conflict in the region? If so, how do you evaluate this role—the role of the Soviet Union in this matter?

[Al-Sabah] Yes, the Soviet Union has played a major role in this region, and in finding this solution which was accepted by Iran—Resolution 598. The Soviet Union was active in bringing about this resolution. We hail the role of the Soviet Union in this connection. We also praise the role of the Soviet Union during and after the war with regard to its [words indistinct] stances toward its friends.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. Finally, I have a question about Kuwaiti-Soviet relations. How are these relations at this time?

[Al-Sabah] In fact, Kuwaiti-Soviet relations are good, with an excellent basis. Whenever there is mutual respect among countries, their relations are always good. Thank God, this is what characterizes our relations with the Soviet Union in all aspects, political, economic, etc.

[Correspondent] Mr Minister, thank you very much for this interview, and we hope to meet you again, God willing.

[Al-Sabah] I thank Soviet radio for this interview. [end recording]

Libyan Frigate 'Al-Khani' Leaves Odessa

LD1208133488 Moscow TASS in English 1229 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Odessa August 12 TASS—The frigate "Al-Khani" of Libya's Navy left the Soviet Black Sea port of Odessa today upon completion of a five-day official friendly visit. The Libyan seamen saw places of interest in the city, visited museums, the circus, attended a meeting of friendship with the Soviet youth. Captain Vyacheslav Zvershanovskiy, Odessa's senior sea chief, held a reception in honour of the Libyan officers. It was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Commander of the frigate, captain second rank, Faraj 'Abd al-Salam, held a reception for Soviet officials and representatives of the Odessa public. Speaking to a TASS correspondent, Faraj 'Abd al-Salam said that the Libyan seamen were leaving the Soviet harbour with the feeling of gratitude for the hospitality. The first official friendly visit of a Libyan warship to a Soviet port opened up new possibilities for the development of friendly relations between Libya and the Soviet Union, he underlined.

Israeli Occupation's 'Utmost Cruelty' Condemned

LD1508182488 Moscow TASS in English 1645 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—TASS political observer Yevgeniy Babenko reports:

Alarming reports are coming from Israeli-occupied Arab lands. The world public is well aware of the utmost cruelty displayed by Israeli invaders with regard to Palestinians participating in the massive national uprising.

It is common knowledge as well that the Israeli military show no special liking (to put it mildly) for representatives of mass media organs, including Western journalists who up till recently still managed to penetrate the occupied territory by hook or by crook, to publish reports from there afterwards or to show TV films denouncing punitive actions of the invaders.

From now on this small flow of truthful information about the situation in the much-suffering Arab lands will be blocked.

After another unsuccessful attempt to suppress rallies and demonstrations of Palestinians upholding their basic national rights the Israeli occupation authorities declared the Gaza sector on August 14 to be a closed military zone and imposed curfew on it "till further notice". Residents of the sector are strictly forbidden to leave their homes, populated localities are surrounded with barbed wire, streets are patrolled by reinforced Army details. Tel Aviv banned any visits of journalists to the sector.

This is a bad sign. New methods and feelings swept the world today. Painstaking, but still fruitful attempts are being made in various parts of the world for settling regional conflicts. However, Tel Aviv is the only one which further toughens its bellicose stand and seeks to settle the acute and rather delicate Palestinian problem with the help of violence and repressions.

Now Israel decided to use an all-out blockade for keeping back any information about the atrocities committed there by the occupation army and the police. According to the latest reports of news agencies, Israel is moving large units to the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza sector. Thus, Israel is secretly accumulating forces for new, even more bloody and cruel repressions against the Palestinians, a whole nation which has been deprived of the right to motherland, to a state of their own.

This is the meaning of Israel's complete silence about what is going on in one of the world's hotbeds of tension. However, no one has managed so far to keep back the truth for along time.

PLO Representative on Government-in-Exile

LD1308090288 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1655 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Moscow, 12 Aug (TASS)—"The question of setting up a Palestinian government-in-exile has now been posed in more concrete and crucial terms than ever before," Nabil 'Umar, extraordinary representative of the Palestinian Liberation Organization in the USSR, stated, speaking at a press conference here for Soviet and foreign journalists today. The press conference was devoted to Jordan's decision to cease its "administrative ties" with the West Bank of the River Jordan. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about whether the problem of setting up a Palestinian government-in-exile has been discussed with official sources in the USSR, Nabil 'Umar said that contacts between Palestinian and Soviet political figures have a constant character. All issues concerning the resolution of the Palestinian problem are discussed in the light of the changing situation. The USSR has an attitude of unvarying respect for the decisions made by the leading Palestinian organs. The PLO, for its part, always takes account of the position of the Soviet side. This approach is one of principle and rules out any sort of calculations. [passage omitted]

'Arafat's Algerian Television Remarks Cited

PM1208110088 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Useful Dialogue"]

[Text] Algiers, 11 Aug—On Wednesday, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, who is here.

In an interview for Algerian television, 'Arafat stated that during the meeting he briefed the Algerian leadership on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

'Arafat also noted that during the meeting the question of convening an extraordinary session of the Palestine National Council to examine ways of resolving the Palestinian problem in the light of the prsent-day international situation and the increasing actions by the Palestinian people on the occupied territories was discussed.

'Arafat stressed that Algerian President Bendjedid reaffirmed the Algerian leadership's full support for the PLO's efforts aimed at creating an independent Palestinian state.

YAR President Salih Receives Brutents

LD1508140588 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0725 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Sanaa, 15 Aug (TASS)—On 14 August, YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received K.N. Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy head of its International Department, who is in the YAR at the invitation of the leadership of the General People's Congress.

During their conversation, A.A. Salih expressed satisfaction with the successful development of USSR-YAR relations and noted their great significance for the YAR. The president stated that the YAR leadership supports the Soviet Union's peace-loving foreign policy, which is based on new thinking and is geared toward curbing the arms race, reinforcing peace and peaceful coexistence between states with different sociopolitical systems, and insuring that all peoples enjoy the freedom to choose their social system, way of life, and policies.

The YAR president was informed of the progress achieved in restructuring in the USSR and of the decisions of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference and the July (1988) CPSU Central Committee plenum. A.A. Salih highly rated the objectives of restructuring in the USSR, stressing this process of a revolutionary situation, as well as internal changes in many countries.

The president spoke in favor of developing contacts between the CPSU and the YAR General People's Congress. This helps to deepen USSR-YAR relations. The two sides expressed a desire for the further development of this cooperation, which already has become customary.

Council of Ministers Congratulates YAR Premier

LD1508090488 Moscow TASS in English 0735 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—The Council of Ministers of the USSR has sent a message to Prime Minister of the Yemen Arab Republic 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, congratulating him on the occasion of his appointment as head of government of the Yemen Arab Republic. The relations of traditional friendship and good cooperation between the USSR and the Yemen Arab Republic are highly appreciated in the Soviet Union which is striving to see to it that these relations should continue developing and strengthening for the good of the peoples of both countries, in the interests of peace, regional and international security, the message says.

In his reply message the prime minister of the Yemen Arab Republic expressed gratitude for the congratulations and underlined the desire to exert every effort in order to strengthen and develop the friendly relations between the two countries.

Briefs

Envoy to Sri Lanka

Yuriy Mikhaylovich Kotov will assume duties as new Soviet Ambassador in Sri Lanka next week. Mr Kotov succeeds K.N. Kulmatov who served as Ambassador during the past 2 years. [Excerpt] [*BK1108160588 Colombo SUN in English 30 Jul 88 p 1*]

East Europe

Demichev Receives Romanian Supreme Court Group

PM1608085788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
16 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 15 August P.N. Demichev received in the Kremlin a Romanian Supreme Court delegation headed by I. Salajan, member of the RCP Central Committee and chairman of the Romanian Supreme Court.

Questions of further developing cooperation, broadening the exchange of experience, and deepening business contacts between the USSR Supreme Court and the Romanian Supreme Court were touched on during friendly talks.

P.N. Demichev told the guests in detail about the essence of the reform of the political system being prepared in the USSR. He emphasized the key significance of the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and the CPSU Central Committee July (1988) Plenum for further developing socialist democracy, strengthening legality, and shaping the legal socialist state. Much attention was devoted to questions of improving legislation under conditions of the radical economic reform.

The guests were briefed on measures to implement legal reform in the USSR and to improve the work of law enforcement organs, as well as the changes to criminal law which are being prepared and implemented in this connection. The need to improve the population's legal literacy was noted.

I. Salajan pointed to the great significance which Romania attaches to the exchange of experience with Soviet colleagues.

MSZMP's Pozsgay on Power Sharing in Hungary

OW1608051788 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1015 GMT 11 Aug 88

[From "The World Today" program, presented by Vladimir Tsvetov]

[Text] Restructuring of social and political life is probably the most vital issue facing the Hungarian public today. I think you would be interested in acquainting yourself with the ideas about this restructuring expressed by Imre Pozsgay, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo.

Pozsgay noted, for instance, that all Hungarian society inherited a Stalinist-type structure. The principle of people's power [narodovlastiye] was overridden by the principle of party power. It carried out the role of a management center.

Leaning on a platform of freedoms, said Imre Pozsgay, the party should become an organization with a built-in source of restructuring and renewal. Further, Imre Pozsgay emphasized that the citizen is a guardian of power and it is not permissible to alienate him from this function. Only the leadership can be removed from power. Imre Pozsgay noted that the present leadership is ready for the realistic solution of this problem.

Speaking about the possibility of having a multiparty system in Hungary, Pozsgay noted that there is no program in scientific socialism which states that building a socialist society can only be done under the leadership of one political party. However, how can a multiparty system be created in the country? Should the ruling party invent partners for itself? It would then become a farce, said Pozsgay. On the other hand, the spontaneous development of a social movement, he stressed, could lead to a situation in which many state and economic organizations would lose their ability to function. Therefore, currently, it is thought to be expedient to implement the separation of power and control over it.

Moscow Television Reports Gdansk Unrest

LD1508173388 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1430 GMT 15 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] According to a PAP report, following yesterday's Mass in Saint Brigitte's Church in Gdansk, during which Father Jankowski delivered a sharply antigovernment sermon, a group of 200 thugs, behaving aggressively, attempted to provoke disturbances in the city.

They chanted anticommunist slogans and interfered with the staging of the "Days of Gdansk" and the Dominican fair being held in the city. The report emphasizes that those who took part in the provocative action behaved extraordinarily aggressively. They threw stones at the security forces and damaged a street coffee bar. Six militiamen were injured.

As a result of preventive operations by the security forces, the extremists did not succeed in provoking mass disturbances.

West Europe

U.S. To Build Storage Facilities in Belgium

LD1508112188 Moscow TASS in English 1109 GMT
15 Aug 88

[Text] Brussels August 15 TASS—In addition to its military bases in Belgium, the United States intends to build three military hardware storage facilities there, reported Jacques Planchard, governor of Luxembourg Province. According to him, the United States has long insisted on their construction saying that each year Belgian territory is used for different NATO exercises. Tanks, artillery pieces, armoured personnel carriers and planes take part in the wargames and each time they have to be brought from overseas and then taken back.

The curious thing is that, rather than picking up the tab for the expenses involved in the planned construction of the storage facilities, the United States intends to shift the burden of financing onto its NATO allies. The cost of each storage facility will be to the tune of 1.5 to 2 billion Belgian francs. Belgium's share will amount to 60 million. In the words of the governor, the Belgian Government has given its consent to the construction of the said U.S. military facilities.

The plans to build in Belgium the three new U.S. military installations, now talked about openly here, attest to the U.S. reluctance to start curtailing its military presence in Western Europe.

General Ivanovskiy To Visit Finland in Aug

PM1608083988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 88 First Edition p 5

[Unattributed report: "For Official Visit"]

[Text] Army General Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, commander in chief of the Ground Forces and USSR deputy defense minister, will pay an official visit to the Republic of Finland in the second half of August at the invitation of General J. Valtanen, commander in chief of Finland's Defense Forces.

Mitterrand Thanks Gromyko for Holiday Message

PM1608074388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1

[French President Mitterrand's message of thanks to A.A. Gromyko]

[Text] To A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium:

I highly appreciate the good wishes you conveyed to me and to the French people on behalf of the Soviet people on the occasion of France's national holiday, and I express my sincere gratitude to you.

Like you, I ardently wish that dialogue at all levels and accord between the USSR and France develop in line with the traditions of friendship which unites our peoples. I am convinced that the close and consistently developing relations between our countries could help to strengthen peace, trust, and security in Europe and throughout the world.

Francois Mitterrand

Briefs

British Ambassador Departs

Moscow August 15 TASS—The ambassador of Great Britain to the Soviet Union, Bryan George Cartledge, left Moscow on August 14. [Text] [*LD1608012288 Moscow TASS in English 0615 GMT 15 Aug 88*]

Latin America & Caribbean

Ortega Cited on U.S. Efforts To Block Peace

LD1308103588 Moscow TASS in English 0932 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] Managua August 13 TASS—The U.S. Administration and Congress exert efforts to block peace agreements reached at Sapoa by the Nicaraguan Government and leaders of the armed counterrevolution. This statement was made on Friday by the Republic's president, Daniel Ortega, after a ceremony of awarding the Augusto Cesar Sandino order to Julius Nyerere, chairman of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania (CCM). Nicaragua consistely abides by its commitments and intends to work towards the peaceful settlement in the country.

"We again proposed to the leader of the armed counterrevolution to resume the dialogue, disrupted by them, and hold the next round of direct talks in Managua on August 26-29. However, the contras try to impose unacceptable conditions and frustrate the process of national reconciliation in Nicaragua," the Sandinista leader stressed.

Wants Security Force on Border

LD1408092088 Moscow TASS in English 0637 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Managua August 14 TASS—TASS correspondents Andrey Kurguzov and Igor Pshenichnikov report:

President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua has called once again for setting up an international security and observation force on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border. Speaking at a meeting Saturday with several Nicaraguan ambassadors accredited abroad, he said that this international troop contingent could involve representatives of the armed forces of Canada, Spain and other Western states.

The question of an international control on the border was raised by Nicaragua following the signing of the Guatemala peace accords which were repeatedly violated by Honduras. That country's armed forces give backing to the contras and, moreover, stage armed provocations against Nicaragua. The function of the international security force should become the guarantee that Honduran territory will not be used in the future as a bridgehead for aggression against Nicaragua, Ortega said.

This force could also guarantee to Honduras that it will never become a target of attacks from neighbouring Nicaragua. Its presence on the common border will create a safety zone in that area and will help relieve tension.

Contrary to the Guatemalan accords, contra formations are concentrated in Honduran territory, the president noted. This creates the danger of the escalation of the conflict between the two countries. A small provocation is enough for the White House to hurry to accuse Nicaragua of a certain act of aggression against Honduras, which can become a pretext for a direct U.S. invasion of Nicaragua, Ortega stressed.

Interior Minister Criticizes U.S., Contras
LD1508130288 Moscow TASS in English 1246 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Managua August 15 TASS—The United States and the contras leaders are seeking to thwart compliance with the Guatemala peace agreements, said Nicaragua's Interior Minister Tomas Borge, speaking at a mass meeting in Bluefields.

As long as the Reagan administration is in the office, it is difficult to expect an early peace settlement in Central America, he underlined.

The counterrevolutionary leaders do not show interest in concluding an agreement on the final ceasefire in Nicaragua, said Tomas Borge. Their policy is aimed at getting from American Congress new multimillion dollar allocations for warfare against the Nicaraguan people. If this happens, the contras tactics at the negotiations with the Government of Nicaragua will remain unchanged: They intend to continue advancing unacceptable demands in a bid to frustrate the peace dialogue under the pretext of the Sandinist government's "unyielding stand".

Nicaragua's interior minister reaffirmed the Nicaraguan Government's readiness to continue peace negotiations with the counterrevolutionaries. The Government of Nicaragua views the negotiations as part of the process of implemention of the Guatemala agreements and a means of attaining peace.

Tomas Borge censured the anti-governmental activities of the right-wing political parties, which, he said, are guided by instructions of the U.S. Embassy in Managua. He said that the Sandinista National Liberation Front would not step down, since only the people of Nicaragua is entitled to make decision on this question.

Nicaraguan Army Political Chief Addresses Navy
LD1508084988 Moscow TASS in English 0715 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Managua August 15 TASS—TASS correspondent Andrey Kurguzov reports:

Nicaragua is forced to set aside vast funds to shore up the combat readiness of the armed forces in the face of the imperialist aggression imposed on the Nicaraguan people, Hugo Torres, head of the Political Department of the Sandinist People's Army, noted in his speech in Corinto last Saturday on the occasion of the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the National Navy.

In conditions of a possible direct armed invasion of Nicaragua by U.S. troops, the country's Navy reliably guards the gains of the popular revolution. They repulse the raids by Somozista mercenaries who hamper the republic's normal development, he said.

Despite many difficulties generated by the United States economic blockade and acts of sabotage by the contras, Nicaragua confidently marches along the road of development, of attaining independence and national sovereignty, the speaker said. The fighting-men of the Sandinist People's Army have received a high standard of combat and political training, therefore, the new multimillion sops by Washington will fail to protect the contras from being crushed.

Torres said that the U.S. Congress takes daring efforts to save the counter-revolution and restore the combat capability of the "fighters for democracy". This is seen from the recent trip to Central America by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, during which he tried to draw into the anti-Nicaraguan coalition states in the region and enlist their support in implementing plans to subdue the Sandinist revolution.

Torres called upon the defenders of Nicaragua to guard vigilantly the state borders and enhance the country's defence capability in the face of a U.S. invasion and the stopped up acts of terrorism by the contras.

New 'Progressive' Party Formed in Nicaragua
LD1508093588 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Managua August 15 TASS - The formation of a new political party, the Liberal National Unity Party [as received], was announced in Nicaragua last Sunday. The total number of Nicaragua's political organisations, from the right-wing openly calling for the overthrow of the government, to the moderate and progressive, has now reached 18.

The members of the new party were previously affiliated with the Independent Liberal Party, with its chairman Virgilio Godoy being known in the country by his reactionary views. Along with other right-wing leaders, he actually advocates continued American interference in Nicaragua's internal affairs and stands for a military solution of the national conflict. It is exactly such a policy of the leadership of the Liberal Independent Party, which objectively runs counter to the interests of the Nicaraguan people, that led to its mass progressive faction's breaking off with Virgilio Godoy and forming a new party. It is headed by Eduardo Coronado, Carlos Alonso and some other leaders.

Journalists have been told by Carlos Alonso that the Liberal National Unity Party's stand does not coincide in all points with the course of the Sandinist National Liberation Front. Meanwhile, he said, the new party members intend to come out against those who adhere to reactionary, anti-patriotic positions.

Talks With Panama on UN Agenda 'Frank, Friendly'

LD1508123688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0632 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Panama, 15 Aug (TASS)—Soviet-Panamanian consultations on the chief issues on the agenda of the forthcoming 43d UN General Assembly session have been held here over 2 days. Taking part in the talks for the Soviet side was Ambassador L.M. Romanov, special representative of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Speaking for the Panamanian side was Jose Maria Cabrera, deputy minister of foreign affairs. The exchange of views passed off in a frank, friendly atmosphere.

The Soviet representative was received by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter.

Noriega Says Canal Funds Diverted to Contras

LD1508212188 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] It has become known that the U.S. Administration is secretly sending part of the funds intended for Panama for the operation of the canal to Nicaraguan contras. This was announced by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the commander of the Panama National Defense Forces. Here is my colleague Yuriy Isayev:

[Isayev] Gen Noriega made the announcement during a speech at a parade in the Panamanian capital. The event was something of a response to Washington's policy of pressure and blackmail and a demonstration of the unity between the people and armed forces and of their readiness to take up arms to uphold the sovereignty and independence of Panama. In his speech, Gen Noreiga also told his compatriots that in 1985 Admiral Poindexter, the deputy assistant to the President for national security affairs, got a grant of Panamanian territory to train contras and organize operations against the Sandinista government. As you know, the United States refused to pay Panama $100 million due it for operating the canal. The Panamanian representative at the UN made a decisive protest. Now it turns out that part of these funds are going to help the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, in violation of all international standards and rules. What is this? The start of a fresh scandal that the press might call Panamagate, by analogy with the Iran affair? Or perhaps the undercover operations by the U.S. Administration are links in the same chain as Irangate. If you compare the facts and surnames, they coincide.

As you know, at the White House conference on 8 August 1985, when the secret arms sale to Iran was approved, the following were present with the U.S. President: Vice President Bush, Secretary of State Shultz, Poindexter, and Casey, the late CIA chief. That is when they began the pressure on Panama, which Washington would like to use as a bridgehead in the struggle against the Nicaraguan Government. Reports have already appeared several times in the Western press that Gen Noriega has documents compromising the present U.S. leadership, particularly Vice President George Bush. It has is not been ruled out that this is why the White House is doing everything conceivable to remove the recalcitrant Panamanian general from the political scene.

The illegal use of Panamanian funds for the struggle against Nicaragua should be read in the overall context of the neoglobalistic policy of Washington which, to achieve its aims, is willing to use blackmail, graft, undercover operations, and deceit.

Castro Comments on Bilateral, Other Relations

LD1408102488 Moscow TASS in English 0802 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Quito August 14 TASS—Fidel Castro, president of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, at a press conference here Saturday, dwelt in detail on international issues. He is here on the invitation of President Rodrigo Borja Cevallos of Ecuador to attend the ceremony of the transfer of power to the new head of state.

Touching on Soviet-Cuban relations, in part, Fidel Castro emphasized that the attempts by the enemies of Cuba and the Soviet Union to drive an edge into relations betwen the two countries were totally doomed to failure.

Responding to a question on the quadipartite negotiations between Cuba, Angola, the United States and South Africa, he noted that there exist most favourable chances to attain a respective agreement regarding independence for Namibia and Angola's security given international guarantees on the part of the United Nations Organisation.

The ruling quarters of the United States, which give backing to military dictatorships, finance the contras, provoke armed attacks and engineer direct interventions against sovereign Central American states bear the brunt of the responsibility for what takes place in Central America. The foremost condition for settling Central

American problems is a renunciation by the United States of the policy of diktat and interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, Castro stressed.

Castro Visits Cargo Vessel 'Orenburg'

LD1508093488 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0125 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Havana, 15 Aug (TASS)—The Soviet vessel "Orenburg" has delivered the first batch of timber cut by Cuban workers in Khabarovsk Kray for delivery to the port of Havana. On Sunday, the "Orenburg" was visited by Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and chairman of the Council of State and the Republic's Council of Ministers. He talked to the captain and crew. The Cuban leader left a note in the guest of honor book of the "Orenburg."

Further on Delegation's Visit to Ecuador

Meeting With Cordovez

PM1508105388 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Visit Continues"]

[Text] Quito, 9 Aug—The members of the visiting Soviet delegation led by Z. Kamalidenov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, met with Diego Cordovez, foreign minister in the government of Ecuadoran President-Elect Rodrigo Borja Cevallos. During the friendly conversation, an exchange of opinions took place on diverse international problems and the prospects for developing Soviet-Ecuadoran relations. D. Cordovez noted, in particular, the existence of opportunities for stepping up Soviet-Ecuadoran cooperation, a reflection of the general foreign policy of Ecuadoran President-Elect Rodrigo Borja Cevallos, which foresees developing relations with all the countries in the world. He stressed that the Soviet delegation's visit to Ecuador will undoubtedly make a positive contribution to strengthening cooperation between the two states.

In the conversation D. Cordovez particularly singled out the Soviet Union's important role in reaching the Geneva agreements on the political settlement in Afghanistan. In his opinion, the accords on Afghanistan undoubtedly gave a boost to the peaceful settlement of other regional problems in Southeast Asia, in the Near East, and in Africa. He noted that the government of Rodrigo Borja Cevallos intends to cooperate in resolving the Central American problem and that, in his words, everything possible must be done for its rapid settlement.

D. Cordovez assessed highly the efforts of the Soviet leadership and of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, personally, in the work toward securing international detente, achieving disarmament, and ensuring peoples' security.

Z. Kamalidenov informed D. Cordovez about the process of the socioeconomic transformations taking place, the results of the 19th All-Union CPSU Conference, and the first results of the changes being implemented both inside the country and in its foreign policy.

Delegation Departs After Talks

LD1408110188 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0315 GMT 14 Aug 88

[Text] Quito, 14 Aug (TASS)—A USSR delegation headed by Z.K. Kamalidenov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has left Ecuador for home. The delegation took part in celebrations marking Rodrigo Borja Cevallos' taking office as president of Ecuador.

During its stay in the capital of Ecuador, the Soviet delegation was received by the new head of state, Rodrigo Borja Cevallos, and by Wilfredo Lucero, president of the Republic's National Congress, and held talks with Nicolas Issa, vice president of the National Congress, Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez, and other members of the government.

The members of the Soviet delegation met the leadership of the Communist Party of Ecuador.

During the contacts, representatives of the leadership of Ecuador noted that the visit of the USSR delegation will undoubtedly make an important contribution to developing and strengthening Soviet-Ecuadoran relations.

Paraguayan 'Dictator' Continues 'Hated Regime'

LD1608083588 Moscow TASS in English 0805 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] Buenos Aires August 16 TASS—By TASS correspondent Oleg Kolesnikov:

On Monday Paraguayan dictator Stroessner started another term of office as the country's president.

This is his eighth term of office, starting since 1954 when he grabbed power as a result of a military coup. Asuncion, the Paraguayan capital, was the venue for a ceremony on the occasion of "the ascension to the throne" of the 75-year-old general who is called "the oldest Latin American caudillo". There was a military parade, and then Stroessner was sworn in at Congress.

The years of Stroessner's stay in office are a dark chapter in Paraguayan history. Terror and brutal reprisals have become a tragic reality of this much-suffering country where tens of thousands of patriots were killed and died in prisons and concentration camps. The broad masses eke out beggarly existence, and over 1.5 million Paraguayans were forced to leave the country in search for earnings and fleeing from police reprisals. On the other hand, surviving Nazis who fled to Paraguay after the Second World War, feel free and easy there. Paraguay is a shelter for smugglers and narcotics dealers. Corruption and bribe-taking are rampant in the administrative apparatus.

According to the appraisal of political analysts, the new and, to all appearances, the last term of Stroessner's rule starts in a situation of steadily growing anti-dictator struggle. It is indicative that Ismael Rolon, archbishop of Asuncion, cancelled all religious services traditionally held on August 15, the foundation day of the Paraguayan capital. Opposition parties and organizations more often act jointly, calling the masses for actions against the hated regime. Big demonstrations held in the country in the past few days show that the Paraguayan people are stepping up the struggle for the liberation of their country from Stroessner's tyranny.

Political & Social

Yakovlev Visits Lithuania, Addresses Aktiv

LD1208211888 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today a republican party aktiv meeting was held in Lithuania. Comrade Yakovlev spoke at the meeting. This is what he said, among other things:

[Begin Yakovlev recording] Comrades, man has an inherent need to reflect on and sort out virtually every day the way he lived yesterday, what awaits him today, and what is to be done to improve his life tomorrow. At the social level this characteristic has been held back for many decades. It is only since April 1985 that the honest and open [glasnoye] interpretation of existence in its relationship to the times has returned to our public consciousness.

The first 3 years of restructuring was a period unusually rich in a spiritual sense. The wind of political and intellectual renewal has affected every aspect of life and has blown across the whole country. At the party's initiative above all difficult questions have been raised and analyzed frankly and honestly. Society has responded to the Leninist directness and openness of the party in an interested and warm way. I am sure that historians of the future, in describing the current state of society, will be writing about the unusually dynamic and variegated nature of the current processes, the boldness of public thinking, and the extraordinariness of the plans.

The people have shaken off their apathy, have drawn themselves up, have taken a deep breath and started to talk loudly about the sore problems that have been accumulating and that have been kept quiet for many years. Today situations have been arising here and there which have deprived some people of spiritual comfort and which have caused worry and even panic, mainly because of their unusual nature. To comfort ourselves by saying that everything is proceeding as it should and that all this is supposedly excesses would be succumbing to ruinous self-deception and letting ourselves be isolated from life by the obstacles of old thinking.

As yet we have basically only touched the edge of the necessary changes, only weighed them, only determined our very first approaches. But we have also already experienced the complex and colossal nature of the tasks, the might of the inertia that has accumulated, and the power of resistance and conservatism, dogmatism and fussy vanguardism. There is no way we can expect easy victories.

The intense spiritual labor of the party and people has now been enshrined in the decisions of the 27th congress, the 19th party conference, the party Central Committee, and plenums, the whole scope of which is unparalleled in its importance over many decades. It has been embodied in practical initiatives which will determine—today this is beyond doubt—the fate of our country and the fate of socialism for a long time ahead. These include democratization and glasnost, economic and political reforms, and the restructuring of the party itself and its activity.

The substantiation of this work and society's enhanced maturity are reflected in the public response to the discussions and documents of the 19th party conference. The conference worked out a clear-cut program for the reconstruction of the bases and the superstructure. The July plenum translated these decisions into the language of urgent practical actions covering all spheres of social existence. Active and conscious participation in these actions alone will give everyone the moral right to consider himself a champion of restructuring and guarantee its historic choice for society as a whole.

When carrying out restructuring we cannot help relating it to the processes underway in the world. It is not just a matter of our internal development being closely and directly connected with the world situation, or the threat of a nuclear disaster, the arms race, and confrontation, which have not yet been removed. It is not even a matter of us having seen and felt a very close interrelation between restructuring and the prestige and influence of our country in the international arena. The root of this issue is that socialism was born and developed at the sharp edge of the theory and practice of civilization as a whole. Now when socialism has prepared itself for an in-depth radical self-renewal, when new foundations of life are being laid for decades ahead, we are again turning to the theory and practice of all world development, and now not only socialist but also nonsocialist.

Prevention of the nuclear threat, disarmament for the sake of peace, trust and cooperation for the sake of the security and survival of mankind are the supreme tasks of modern times. But thinking in terms of historical categories is only the very first and very necessary prerequisite for people to be able to start tackling their other problems in a just, democratic, and rational way.

The interests of mankind as a whole are not an abstract notion, conceived on a speculative basis in a thinker's theoretical aloofness. In our day, when the whole planet seems to have been compressed to an unprecedentedly small size; when the destiny of mankind's history can be ended by the touch of a button; and when any event becomes the property of 5 billion people within a matter of several hours; in our day the interests of mankind as a whole have acquired flesh and blood. These really are the interests of all mankind, and hence they are our interests, too, for we are part of mankind and one of the most important factors in its social progress. These are interests which unite mankind, and hence they are capable of overcoming the forces of separation, of opposition, of confrontation, and of war, which have already delayed the development of civilization by whole centuries. This is the case where opposites come closer to each other. The interests of the individual merge with the interests of all people, and the philosophical idea, abstract and relating to all history, merges with particularly practical, earthbound, real, and everyday affairs.

Marxism as such is the interpretation of the interests of mankind as a whole from the viewpoint of the history and the development prospects of all mankind, and not just of individual countries or classes, peoples, or social groups that form part of it. Highlighting the interests of the oppressed and exploited, singling out in the social structure of their time the class that is the bearer of the historical mission of liberating man and mankind, can one say that the founders of socialism set these interests against all the others? No, of course not. The liberation of man and mankind from all types of exploitation and oppression, the struggle against the nuclear threat and for the salvation of civilization, and the active inclusion of socialism in the solution of other global problems common to all mankind are not diverse tasks, and even less so opposed tasks, but tasks that complement each other. They are merely different facets, different components, different aspects of one and the same path, that of the freedom and progress of the peoples. [end recording]

This evening Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev visited the rayon center of Trakay.

Further on Yakovlev Address

LD1208234688 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2105 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Vilnius, 12 Aug (TASS)—The current stage of restructuring is a stage for specific actions and implementing decisions already adopted, it was noted here today at a meeting between Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the party aktiv of the Lithuanian SSR.

Addressing the meeting, A. Yakovlev called the first 3 years of restructuring a period that was extraordinarily rich from an intellectual point of view. The wind of political and intellectual renewal has touched all aspects of life, and has blown throughout the country, he said. Today, when the April policy already has more than 3 years behind it, the question of its success arises. The party does have a reply to that question.

The stagnant economy was moving toward losing the ability not only to carry out expanded reproduction, but even simple reproduction. This would have been a crisis. The turn to restructuring halted this downward slide and stopped the deterioration in the general situation.

This is not yet the success that is required, but it does create the necessary prerequisites for advance. Encouraging trends have appeared in the development of a number of ratios. The growth in unnecessary reserves, which for three 5-year-plan periods in succession had rendered passive a sizable part of the national income, has slowed. The average completion time for construction projects has begun to drop. Perhaps the most tangible change for the better has occurred in labor productivity.

The CPSU Central Committee secretary called all of this a result of the improvement in the economic management system, the strengthening of discipline, the renewal of leading cadres, and an improvement in planning. [Moscow TASS in English at 2146 GMT on 12 August carries a similar version of this report, adding at this point the following sentence: "The effect of the radical reform is still in the future."] He noted that today the greatest hindrance comes from the pervasive, thoroughly adaptable bureaucratism: the habits of a life of inertia, of personal and social irresponsibility, and lack of initiative.

Dwelling on the socioeconomic problems in Lithuania, the speaker noted that they are being tackled fairly well. The growth in national income last year amounted to 5.3 percent, as against a planned 4 percent. The plan tasks for grain and consumer goods production were overfulfilled, as were those for retail trade turnover, the volume of realization of paid services, and the commissioning of housing. The plans for the commissioning of schools, preschools, and hospitals were fulfilled.

All these are not unimportant parameters of prosperity in the social sphere of man's existence. Much is being done to constantly increase the republic's scientific and cultural potential.

At the same time, A. Yakovlev noted that the republic is not without problems characteristic of society and the national economy of the country.

He dwelled on certain questions relating to the political backup for the transformations that are being affected. The reconstruction of the political system of Soviet society, a decision about which was adopted by the party conference, concerns not just the structure of the organs of authority, the separation of functions, or the procedure for elections. We must learn politics, not just democracy, culture, glasnost, and debate, but politics as a particular sphere of activity. We must take into account its laws, rules, and logic. If restructuring is measured by actions, the effectiveness of its political backup is measured by the realism of the goals and the maturity of the actions of each party organization.

Democratization, glasnost, pluralism of views, and nascent polyphony have thrown light on the unsolved issues of relations between nationalities that for decades have been building up, ignored and pushed to one side. They have also created the conditions necessary for overcoming ailments democratically, the secretary of the CPSU Central Committee continued. The 19th party conference took the first major step in providing the theoretical and practical substantiation of a nationalities policy in the period of restructuring.

One of the facts of our existence is growth in national self-awareness. This is a logical process, but it never proceeds simply. It reflects and refracts in itself all the twists and turns of real life. Under the influence of real life's problems and difficulties, particularly difficult ones aggravated over a protracted period of time, it can take on unhealthy forms. It is in precisely such situations that spurts of unrestrained emotion and the entry of irrational principles into politics and public life become possible.

In carrying out restructuring, A. Yakovlev continued, we cannot but relate it to the processes taking place in the world. Today, when socialism has prepared itself for very deep and radical self-renewal, when new foundations of life are being laid for decades to come, we again turn to the theory and practice of world development—and now both socialist and nonsocialist development. We turn to this to imagine for ourselves what this world will be like in the foreseeable future, what tasks it will put before us, what opportunities it will open up, what criteria it will force us to live up to in different spheres of life, and what threats it can produce.

The speaker called the prevention of the nuclear threat, disarmament for the sake of peace and trust, and cooperation for the sake of the security and survival of humanity the paramount tasks of the present day. But thinking in terms of historical categories, he said, this is merely the very first and most necessary prerequisite for people to be able to begin to tackle their other problems in a just, democratic, and rational way, problems such as feeding the starving, preserving nature, and efficiently managing the earth's resources.

In our day, when the entire planet seems to have been compressed down to the smallest small size imaginable, when the destiny and history of mankind can be broken off by the pressing of a button, and when any event can be communicated to 5 billion people in several hours, the interests of all mankind have become tangible.

These really are the interests of all mankind. Therefore, they are our interests, too, since we are a part of mankind and one of the most important factors in its social progress. These are interests which unite mankind; thus, they are capable of overcoming the forces of division, opposition, confrontation, and war, which have already held back the development of civilization by centuries.

The 19th CPSU Conference, A. Yakovlev continued, has set a firm course toward building a legal state. This is the deep reform of the political system by means of its all-around democratization and movement toward a socialist self-governing society based on a foundation of law.

Having dwelled on the role of the intelligentsia in the process of renewal, the speaker described the freedom of intellectual activity as a great gain of restructuring.

In conclusion, the CPSU Central Committee secretary emphasized: The decisive moment has arrived when the strategy, principles, ideas, and the party and state decisions that are based on them are to be implemented in life.

Activities, Tours Detailed

LD1208225688 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 12 Aug 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report from Vilnius by reporters S. Slipchenko and A. Paulyus—recorded]

[Text] Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev has laid flowers at the monument to Vladimir Ilich Lenin; at the eternal flame at (Nantakanskoye) cemetery; and on graves of members of the Lithuanian revolutionary movement and well-known writers, artists, and composers of the republic.

Comrade Yakovlev met with republican science representatives in the building of the Academy of Sciences. Leaders of institutes and scientific and production associations talked about excessive surveillance of scientific collectives being exercised by USSR ministeries and the State Committee for Science and Technology. Discussion of the question of ecology was especially acute.

Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev looked around the first specialized museum of Lithuanian decorative and applied art yesterday. It has only been open for 10 months. Here is a collection of objects created by artists both in the 14th century and modern days.

Yesterday afternoon Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev met in the Writers Union with leaders of republican creative unions, newspaper editors, film directors, and actors. Many participants in the meeting were members of the organizing group of the Lithuanian movement for restructuring. A newspaper editor, (Gemontasis Krashtas Aligemantas Tyukuolis), spoke about this movement and the problems connected with its organization. Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev noted that countrywide there are now about 5,000 associations and informal organizations.

Almost all of these organizations have been set up under a slogan supporting restructuring. The question of their recognition and establishment must be tackled in those areas of the country where they are being set up. But at the same time, he stressed that work aimed at restructuring has been initiated by the party and that this work requires consistency, tolerance, and single-mindedness. Superfluous dissipation of energy can only harm the common cause. The party only supports sincere aspirations for the renewal of society.

Today Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev continued his visit to Vilnius. Flowers were laid at the monument to Mickevicius-Kapsukas, one of the founders of the Communist Party of Lithuania—which is 70 years old this year—and chairman of the first provisional revolutionary government. Flowers were also laid at the monument to the writer Petras Cvirka, a classic of Lithuanian literature.

The Vilnius hothouse combine is situated 20 km from the city. It is a scientific production center, although the combine does not officially enjoy that status. Selection and scientific work has been carried out successfully and for a long time. A laboratory in which it is possible to rapidly test vegetables for nitrate content was shown. Some 150 types of flowers are grown in these hothouses and many of them are in no way inferior to famous Dutch strains. The enterprise is now working at full strength and only modernization can expand output. Our own country's industry does not produce the necessary equipment and so direct links are needed between the enterprise and foreign firms. In turn, the combine needs independence for this.

Aleksandr Nikolayevich Yakovlev looked over a gardening cooperative in the suburbs. During his travels, the visitor was accompanied by Comrade Songayla, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Lithuania.

Gorbachev Sends Greetings to Folk Festival

*PM1608092788 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
13 Aug 88 Second Edition p 1*

[M.S. Gorbachev greetings message to Moscow Folk Art Festival; undated]

[Text] Dear friends!

I am sincerely pleased with this opportunity to convey cordial greetings to the participants in and guests of the International Folk Art Festival in Moscow.

Your vivid celebration of folk creativity has brought together representatives of different countries of the world, holding different political beliefs but united in the desire to actively develop the fruitful international exchange of spiritual values. The decade of culture proclaimed by UNESCO is acquiring a real meaning.

Our country is constantly concerned to create the conditions necessary for the development of folk creativity and to preserve and augment the cultural heritage. I am confident that the traditional atmosphere of Soviet people's hospitality, of creative competitiveness, and of readiness to understand one another will doubtless ensure success for the International Folk Art Festival.

I wish every participant in the festival a good mood, vivid impressions, and unforgettable friendly encounters.

M. Gorbachev

Attending Officials Noted

*LD1208222488 Moscow Television Service in Russian
1700 GMT 12 Aug 88*

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has sent a telegram to the participants in and visitors to the International Folklore Festival, which opened today in Moscow.

[I. Tereshkina] The greetings were read out by USSR Culture Minister Zakharov. Present at the opening ceremony were Comrades Vorotnikov, Ligachev, Demichev, and representatives of the Soviet public and the international committee for organizing folklore festivals. [passage omitted]

Leningraders Demand Action Against 'Pamyat'

*PM1608114088 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
14 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 6*

[Letter from staffers of the Leningrad Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies, plus commentary by IZVESTIYA editorial office: "The Indecent Game Exploiting Decent Feelings in Which the 'Pamyat' Players Try To Involve People"]

[Text] The IZVESTIYA editorial office has received a letter from staffers at the Leningrad Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies. Its text is given below:

The staffers of the Leningrad Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies met on 11 July 1988 to discuss the alarming situation that has come up in Leningrad in connection with the actions of the association that calls itself the Russian national patriotic front "Pamyat."

The members of this association meet every Thursday not far from Leningrad University and conduct chauvinist, basically antisocialist propaganda that is an insult to the honor and dignity of Soviet people. The meetings take place in an atmosphere of hysterical incitement to hate non-Russian nationalities. Attempts to enter into a debate with "Pamyat" activists are rapidly cut short.

Having listened to reports from our comrades who have attended "Pamyat" meetings, as well as a briefing from staffers of the Leningrad Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences N.N. Miklukho-Maklay Institute of Ethnography, who were invited to our session, we, the undersigned, declare:

The "Pamyat" front distorts our country's history by attributing to Jews, Letts, and other "foreigners" the main blame for the unjustified repressions of the twenties and thirties, violations of the rule of law during collectivization, and the destruction of monuments of Russian culture.

The "Pamyat" front, in the form of its Leningrad activists, publicly seeks to justify organizations such as the "League of the Russian People" and the "Black Hundred," which covered themselves in ignominy. They say of these organizations that their members were peacefully engaged in the study of Russian culture and were against the Jewish pogroms. The statements of the "Pamyat" front's ideologists resurrect the theories of the purity of the nation and condemn intermarriage between nationalities.

Speeches by "Pamyat's" ideologists are often reminiscent of the slogans of Nazism. The words "socialist patriotism" and "internationalism" on their lips often sound like something vile, while bellicose nationalism is extolled as normal behavior.

The "Pamyat" front often takes advantage of the fact that people are ill-informed on historical matters, exploiting the natural and noble feeling of love for the motherland and the desire to contribute to the restoration of monuments of Russian culture and nature conservation.

Particular concern is caused by the fact that "Pamyat" activists systematically take schoolchildren to its meetings. One teacher at Boarding School No 45 attached to Leningrad State University not only delivers "denunciations" at the society's meetings, but even introduces children to its ideas.

Attempts are made to bring moral pressure to bear on Jewish Soviet citizens, first and foremost figures in culture, the arts, and education, as well as active supporters of restructuring of other nationalities. To this end lists of names are printed and read out, sometimes with the threatening addition: "Their addresses are known to us." In appeals and verbal statements there are frank calls for violence—"we must know the face of our enemies," "it is time to go over to partisan actions."

To justify this persecution, they make use of the same old so-called "Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion," which were fabricated by the tsarist secret police—a forgery which was later taken up by fascist Germany and was condemned at court proceedings in many West European states and repeatedly exposed in the Soviet press.

The activity of "Pamyat" activists is also focused on individual institutions, for which purpose the so-called "national salvation committees" are set up. An example is the Physics and Mathematics Boarding School No 45: As a result of this, its work has been paralyzed and teachers are leaving.

Any encroachment on the friendship, equality, and mutual respect of all our country's peoples is an outrage against our past and a mortal threat to our future. All attempts of this nature should meet with a firm, unanimous rebuff.

The actions of the "Pamyat" front's leaders are in violation of Article 36 of the USSR Constitution, banning the preaching of national or racial discord, and Article 74 of the RSFSR Criminal Code. The activity of the leaders of this organization runs sharply counter to the 19th all-union party conference resolution "On Glasnost," which says clearly: "It is impermissible to use glasnost to the detriment of the interests of the Soviet state and society or individual rights, or to preach war and violence, racism, and national and religious intolerance...."

We consider it necessary to appeal to the USSR general prosecutor to take urgent steps: to take proceedings, in accordance with the law, against persons acting in the name of the "Russian national patriotic front 'Pamyat'" for kindling national discord.

All those who spoke at the meeting are prepared to confirm the above with their testimonies.

We call on the broad public to express its attitude to the activity of the "Pamyat" front's representatives, who kindle national enmity.

We demand clarification of the question why Leningrad's party and soviet organs do not publicly express their attitude to the activity of the "Pamyat" front and why Leningrad's mass media are remaining neutral.

O. Bolshakov, Ye. Bogoslovskiy, O. Berlev, M. Dandamayev, I. Dyakonov, A. Perikhanyan, M. Piotrovskiy, doctors of historical sciences; Z. Vorozheykina, V. Goreglyad, L. Menshikov, M. Nikitin, V. Livshits, doctors of philological sciences; Ya. Vasilkov, P. Gryaznevich, M. Yermakov, A. Kabanov, I. Kaneva, A. Khosroyev, V. Spirin, candidates of philological sciences; D. Yermakov, S. Marakhonova, V. Polosin, T. Selivanova, candidates of historical sciences; and others. In all, 59 signatures.

From the Editorial Office [subhead]

The letter published here is far from the only appeal to IZVESTIYA from Leningraders worried about the increased activeness in recent months of those who belong to the "national patriotic front 'Pamyat.'" People consider it their human and civic duty to protest the frankly nationalist, inflammatory speeches repeatedly delivered by the "Pamyat" pseudopatriots at their rallies in Rumyantsevskiy Gardens on Vasilyevskiy Island.

"This is not merely blasphemy—I can hardly believe that here in the center of Leningrad it is possible to systematically conduct unbridled propaganda of national enmity, but I have seen it and heard it for myself"—that is how L.Ye. Ankudinova, a war veteran and former machinegunner, and in the postwar years a historian and university teacher, expressed her indignation. "Do we really not have a law that enables proceedings to be taken against this kind of activity?"

Now the scientists of the Institute of Oriental Studies have joined their voices to these alarming reports, exposing the significance of the appeals made by "Pamyat," which is not hampered in carrying out broad public propaganda of its ideas even by the fact that **it is not officially registered as a public or voluntary association**. [boldface as published]

It is not uninteresting that the ideologists of the "national patriotic front" on the banks of the Neva are not interested only in questions of the "national future of the people," as they themselves declare. In a June appeal addressed to central bodies, in the name of the "Russian patriotic public of Leningrad," they propose, for instance, "the revival of private gymnasiums and boarding schools, as well as the opening of Sunday schools at cathedrals, churches, and monasteries." It seems that "Pamyat's" leaders have in mind not only the struggle against "Jewish dominance in Soviet science and culture"....

The editorial office showed the letter from staffers of the Leningrad Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Oriental Studies to A.A. Belkin, lecturer at Leningrad State University Faculty of State Law. This is his commentary:

"The facts set forth in the letter undoubtedly testify to violations of the USSR Constitution, and not only Article 36, which bans the preaching of national discord. Basically they are also contrary to the objectives enshrined in Article 50 of the Constitution, which establishes political freedoms, including freedom of speech and freedom to hold rallies. In this sense the question raised in the letter concerning legal proceedings for this preaching seems to me to be entirely justified and legitimate."

So what is happening? Against whom and for what is the "Pamyat" "front" struggling? Perhaps this struggle is helping restructuring, with which honest, thinking Russia associates the resolution of its many problems, its economic, social, and spiritual renewal? But it is well known that restructuring is impossible without the consolidation and unification of all the creative, constructive forces of all the country's peoples. But "Pamyat," on the contrary, tries to disunite them through national discord and sow the seeds of pernicious enmity—and is thus oriented and operating against restructuring, whatever the "front's" leaders may claim. That is the reality.

Today, at a time when the tension has not yet died down in society after the recent dramatic events in Nagorno-Karabakh and certain other regions—events which revealed what disasters can result from any exacerbation of the nationalities question—the stepping up of the "Pamyat" society's activity can hardly be assessed as other than provocative and socially dangerous. It not only complicates national relations; it also puts a trump card into the hands of the opponents of restructuring, enabling them to expatiate on the dangers of glasnost and democratic transformations and entice unsophisticated people onto their side.

How did it come about that, despite the Leningraders' obvious indignation, the "Pamyat" ideologists were given the opportunity to conduct their propaganda here unhindered? Did the "front" have permission to hold rallies in Rumyantsevskiy Gardens? V.M. Borisov, first deputy chairman of Vasileostrovskiy Rayispolkom in Leningrad, in answer to the editorial office's inquiry, said that "Pamyat" was given such permission at one time, but the rayon authorities were forced to take this step after a telephone call from the party obkom. The public protests have, of course, reached the rayispolkom.

According to Borisov, on Wednesday 10 August representatives of "Pamyat" were handed official notification of a ban on the holding of further rallies in Rumyantsevskiy Gardens, although they protested, naturally, and stated that all the same they would meet in the gardens the next day. In the future, the "Pamyat" leaders added, they intend to hold their gatherings and rallies in the historic Palace Square. This means that the so-called "national patriotic front" does not intend to surrender its positions.

On Thursday evening, despite the ban, "Pamyat" did indeed try once again to hold a rally in Rumyantsevskiy Gardens. The militia prevented it, although the crowd took a long time to disperse—signatures were being collected for a petition for official registration of the "front" and people were reading leaflets. LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA reported on this. The newspaper printed a selection of letters condemning the "front's" nationalist speeches.

Will this yield any results? No one is likely to risk answering in the affirmative. Judging by the latest rally, neither public protests, nor bans by the local authorities, nor violations of the rule of law by the leaders of the newly fledged "front" embarrass them or stop them.

Official Comments on 'Pamyat'

LD1508185088 Moscow TASS in English 1809 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Moscow August 15 TASS—Assertions of members of the congressional human rights caucus that organization "Pamyat" is given official support in the Soviet Union are not in keeping with reality, Colonel-General David Dragunskiy, chairman of the anti-Zionist committee of the Soviet public, told a TASS correspondent. He noted that the theme of these hearings that were started by the U.S. congressional caucus several days ago was named "Anti-Semitism in the USSR".

"I am far from wishing to overestimate or dramatise the degree of the negative impact of the nationalist slogans of 'Pamyat' on the hearts and minds of Soviet people", Dragunskiy said. "The statement that leader of 'Pamyat' Vasilyev made some time back in an interview to a correspondent of the Italian newspaper 'LA REPUBBLICA' that 'Pamyat' has millions of supporters among Soviet people can hardly be taken seriously. The meeting of representatives of 'Pamyat' with the collective of Moscow's Likhachyov Autoworks numbering many thousands can be a specific comment on this assertion by Vasilyev. The participants in the meeting finally demanded that representatives of 'Pamyat' leve the Palace of Culture of the autoworks".

"How can there be any talk about the authorities' backing 'Pamyat' when it is common knowledge that the USSR State Security Committee made an official warning to the leader of 'Pamyat' on May 28 in connection with his anti-social actions which might incite national strife", the general said.

A clear line of distinction is drawn in our country between democracy and permissiveness, between socialist pluralism and propagatation of ideas hostile to socialism, David Dragunskiy said. This line is determined by the Soviet Constitution and by the criminal code.

"I view the hearings of the congressional human rights caucus as another attempt to try persuade the U.S. media to recourse to the hackneyed theme of persecution of the Soviet Jewry", the theme the interest in which was clearly lost under the impact of perestroyka under way in the USSR," General Dragunskiy said in conclusion.

Problems in Azerbaijan Housing, Environment

NC1608091188 Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 1600 GMT 11 Aug 88

[Text] The Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee has held a meeting to examine matters concerning the productive use of the housing fund and Baku's economic and environmental situation. The leading officials of the Baku Gorispolkom and of the city services organizations and departments, as well as the chairmen of the rayispolkoms, participated in the meeting.

The meeting participants noted that housing is one of the most important directions in the party's social policy. The question of housing has become of immediate concern to Baku. The number of people waiting for housing facilities is increasing from 1 year to the next, but the pace of construction of housing facilities does not comply with the program. The participants also noted that maintaining the housing fund and adhering to the principle of social justice in [words indistinct] and in the housing sites without failure is very important. Cases of disorderliness and abuse are not few in that regard.

Many complaints are being made to the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, the editorial offices of the republic's newspapers, and the radio and television network. Due to absence from work because of ill health of the leading officials of the Baku Gorispolkom and rayispolkoms, ministries, main administrations, and organizations, hundreds of houses which are ready to be used remain empty. On the other hand, there are a number of cases of illegal and unauthorized occupation of houses.

The leading officials of the Baku Gorispolkom must [words indistinct], quicken the distribution of residential facilities, demand accountability in connection with the existing cases of delay and bureaucratic procedures, and seriously control adherence to socialist law. Particular attention must be focused on the question of fully supplying all the municipal and social services required by the residential facilities. It was noted at the meeting that the responsibility of the city and rayon soviet executive committees should be increased in that regard.

The question of supplying drinking water to the Baku residents has become very serious. Regardless of the difficulties caused by the lack of drinking water resources near Baku, concrete opportunities exist for significantly improving the drinking water supply to the city. However, the water resources of the Baku Water Supply Administration are being used unsatisfactorily. Measures are not being taken to reduce the number of workers employed by the city water supply network. On the other hand, the number of establishments for [words indistinct] in connection with technical needs are not many.

The water supply system must be significantly improved [words indistinct]. The leading officials of the Baku Gorispolkom and the Baku City Water Supply Administration were instructed to quicken the pace of the effort made to take the measures required for maintaining the normal operation of the water supply and distillation installations, to draw up a concrete program for the use of domestic resources, and to prevent the (?wasting of water).

The participants at the meeting also discussed the situation of the roads and communications systems in Baku. The confusion and discord in the work of the services departments and main administrations prove that the required level of guidance is not being given to this domain, which is important for the economic life of the city. Many of the city roads are in a state of complete chaos as a result of digging operations, and this has caused traffic accidents. The ditches that are dug for the purpose of repairing or renewing communications lines are not repaired for months, and they are then flooded by rain, causing disruptions in telephone service.

The leading cadres of the Baku Gorispolkom Main Administration for Highway Construction and Repairs are responsible for this. They have been displaying irresponsibility and indifference for many years and blaming disagreements between the administrations for everything. The question of consolidating the leading cadres of the administration with industrious individuals who are conscious of party responsibility was discussed at the meeting.

It was also noted that the work carried out by the city organs to maintain the city's required level of sanitary services is very unsatisfactory. The environment of the city has been converted into garbage disposal areas for all sorts of organic and inorganic waste material. These areas have become a source of contamination for the environment. The city residents are also justified in (?worrying about) the late removal of garbage from residential areas, for its accumulation on a large scale has created the danger of contagious diseases.

Industrial waste, which includes harmful elements that disrupt the balance in nature, continues to be released into the atmosphere and the Caspian Sea. The funds allocated for environmental protection have not been fully used. Economic officials have not been taking the measures required for employing safe technological systems which will not cause ecological damage. Meanwhile, the sanitary services departments, the members of the organs responsible for the protection of the environment, and [words indistinct] have not been taking determined measures against those who breach the environmental protection laws.

The leading officials of the Baku Gorispolkom were instructed to [words indistinct] and create the necessary basis for the job. The meeting participants noted that the indifferent approach toward the needs of the Baku residents does not comply with the party's main policy of fulfilling the social needs of the people, nor does it comply with the reconstruction spirit in the country. The leading officials of the pertinent ministries, main administrations, establishments, city services organizations, and control organs were advised to take urgent measures.

The meeting established concrete tasks and time schedules in connection with the matters that were discussed. The responsible officials who will realize the said tasks were also named. It was decided that the leading officials of the Baku Gorispolkom, the various rayispolkoms, and the city services organizations and departments should systematically explain to the work collectives the work that will be carried out. Systematic accounts should also be given through the television and press organs.

Abdul-Rakhman Vezirov, first secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, addressed the meeting.

Yerevan 'Normal' as Plants Try To Catch Up

LD1508193488 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] As in most other big towns, another working week started in Yerevan this morning. The Armenian capital maintains a normal and business-like rhythm. But our special correspondent Sergey Omelchenko and Kuryum Kumaryan report that many enterprises in the town also worked over the weekend, trying to make up for what was lost in early July. A number of plants and factories have already caught up with their schedules, while others hope to do so in the third quarter. Yet certain enterprises are likely to catch up only by the end of the year.

The republic's party organization is now carrying out considerable work aimed at improving the moral and political situation in Armenia. Collectives are holding broad discussions of the republican Communist Party Central Committee's address to the Armenian working people in connection with the Central Committee's forthcoming plenum. The tasks facing Armenia's party organization in overcoming stagnation in the economy and social sphere will be examined.

Arutyunyan Meets With CPSU Envoy Volskiy

NC1608111888 Yerevan Domestic Service in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Aug 88

[Text] A meeting between Comrade Arutyunyan, first secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, and Comrade Volskiy, CPSU Central Committee and USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium representative in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, member of the CPSU Central Committee, and USSR Supreme Soviet deputy, was held in the Central Committee of the Armenian Communist Party yesterday. During the meeting they discussed questions related to the realization of the CPSU Central Commitee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Latvia's Pugo Views Reforms, Past Mistakes

LD1508125488 Riga in Latvian to Europe 2030 GMT 10 Aug 88

[Text] Boris Pugo, first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee, gave a long and extensive interview on Latvian television yesterday. He spoke about the topical urgency of Latvia's regional financial autonomy model for the economic recovery and the resolution of social problems. He emphasized that nationality problems were rooted in the erroneous economics of the past.

Boris Pugo acknowledged that it had been a mistake to drag people away from individual farms. Talking about the recovery of Latvia's rural areas, the first secretary of the Central Committee supported the idea that the tenants of individual farms also could engage paid seasonal workers.

Boris Pugo appealed for tolerance toward different standpoints on the red-white-red flag. This question must be decided calmly and delicately. Meetings and demonstrations must proceed in an organized manner. They must fit within the framework of the slogans proclaimed by the organizers beforehand.

Boris Pugo acknowledged that the 1941 and 1949 deportations, the later corn campaign, and other exaggerations in Latvia caused by administrative methods have created skeptical attitudes and disbelief, and had greatly harmed people's social awareness. He noted that in order to overcome this it is important to insure through legislation the rights of people both for the long-term renting of land—for 50 years and more—and for other rights. It is important to increase political culture in society.

Destruction of Estonian Literature Described

PM1608080588 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 9 Aug 88 p 4

[Andres Kung report: "Estonian Literature Destroyed"]

[Text] In recent years several Estonian researchers and writers have begun to speak out about Stalin's genocide of Estonians, among others. Recently the first detailed review of Stalin's cultural genocide of Estonian literature was also published.

Its author was Aivo Lohmus, who revealed in the daily EDASI (Forward) that almost all of the 30,000 titles published during Estonia's independence have become impossible to get hold of. A total of tens of millions of books have been destroyed during the Soviet era, Lohmus said. In addition there are all the archives and even folk song collections that have been destroyed.

As early as July 1940, the month following the Red Army's invasion, the security organs decided to confiscate and destroy "light reading" [foerstroeelselitteratur]—from Edgar Rice Burroughs' stories about Tarzan to Alexandre Dumas' "The Count of Monte Cristo."

A month later party newspaper RAHVA HAAL (The Voice of the People) announced the decision "to withdraw from sale and other circulation all slanderous and agitational anti-Soviet literature, all literature justifying or promoting the ideology of and exploitation by the grand bourgeois bloodsuckers, all chauvinist literature promoting enmity and hate between the peoples, and all types of religious literature."

"Unsuitable books" were torn or cut to pieces with huge knives or put on chopping blocks and chopped to pieces with axes. In the Estonian publishing houses' central storage depot alone 23 people were kept busy for more than 2 weeks destroying books.

When the Soviet troops returned in the fall of 1944 the hunt was resumed. Not before 1950 was arbitrariness replaced by an official catalog of banned literature, "List No 1 of out-of-date editions which may not appear in libraries or bookshops." All "newspapers and journals published in Estonia during the bourgeois era and the German occupation" and all textbooks published during the same period were described as out-of-date. The list also included 3,000 novels, books of poetry, monographs, and so on, all specifically identified by title.

In 1952 a second list of a further 2,000 titles was published

Among the literature that was banned and destroyed were major works such as the "Estonian Encyclopedia," the "Great Bible," the "History of World Art" and the "History of Estonian Art," biographical dictionaries, book series such as "The Nobel Prizewinners," "The Novel in the Nordic Area," "The Great Masters of the Written Word," the works of Dostoyevskiy, and so on. The list also included hundreds of books for children and young people that were classics of world or Estonian literature.

"The approach shows," Lohmus writes, "that there was a systematic action to combat our earlier culture and history like deadly enemies. It is the duty of our present leaders to carry out a thorough investigation into this and make the results public and then to take definite steps to make good the people's losses."

But hitherto developments have been moving in the wrong direction, Lohmus writes. Recently, for example, the State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade demanded that book publishing in (the non-Russian) republics be cut back. This has already happened in Estonia.

In the last decade the Soviet authorities have cut the number of Estonian titles from 1,555 in 1976 to 1,255 in 1985. Lohmus fears that the demand that publishing houses too should be self-financing in the future could lead to even fewer new publications. It is thought to be even more difficult to get permission for reprints of the classics.

But there is another possibility, thanks to a courageous chief librarian at Tartu University. During the Stalin period this man succeeded in rescuing two copies of every banned book and preserving them in a secret store.

One possible way of saving this unique cultural heritage and giving it distribution would be to photocopy the copies preserved. But there are few copying machines in the Soviet Union and they may not be used freely even by the university library and its employees.

Could Sweden contemplate donating copying machines and paper to this university library founded by Gustav II Adolf? That would be an excellent example of practical solidarity.

Baklanov Attends 'Builder's Day' Meeting

LD1208211288 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Aug 88

[Text] Affairs and tasks of the building conveyer industry under the new management conditions and ways to promptly eliminate shortcomings were discussed at a festive meeting. The festive meeting, held to mark Builder's Day, took place in Moscow today. Speaking at the meeting were Bibin, first deputy chairman of the USSR Gosstroy; Surov, chairman of the Moscow construction committee; and others.

In the presidium were: Baklanov, CPSU Central Committee secretary; senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee; and leading officials from a number of ministries and departments.

Vorotnikov Addresses Road Construction Meeting

LD1308202388 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 13 Aug 88

[Text] A conference which examined the issue of progress in fulfilling the state program for building and repairing motor roads in the non-Chernozem zone of the RSFSR took place at the republic's Council of Ministers today. Reports by the leaders of ministries and departments and local soviets were heard. Comrade Vorotnikov spoke at the conference.

Demichev Confers Awards in Kremlin Ceremony

LD1508164988 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1430 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Comrade Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, today conferred awards on a group of comrades in the Kremlin. Orders of the Labor Red Banner were awarded to the writer Dudintsev; Academician Kim; Petrovskiy, full member of the USSR Academy of Sciences; Rykov, ambassador of the USSR to the Republic of India; (Salnikov), senior specialist of a state commission department of the USSR Council of Ministers; and Khrennikov, first secretary of the Board of the USSR Composers' Union.

Orders of the Friendship of the Peoples, the Badge of Honor and Medals for Labor Prowess were also awarded.

A certificate of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on the presentation of the title of Honor People's Artiste of the USSR was received by Kirillov, presenter and artistic head of the presenters' department of the chief program management of Central Television.

Comrade (Afanasyev) was awarded a certificate on the presentation of the title of Honor Merited Mechanical Engineer of the USSR.

Comrade Demichev sincerely congratulated the award winners on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Soviet Government, and wished them new successes in their work. The award winners expressed their profound gratitude to the Communist Party and the Soviet state for the high appraisal of their work.

Comrade Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, took part in the award ceremony.

Gosagroprom's Poletskov Dies 'Suddenly' 5 Aug

PM1508155388 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 6

[Obituary of Vladimir Nikitovich Poletskov]

[Excerpts] Vladimir Nikitovich Poletskov, deputy chairman of the USSR Gosagroprom, died suddenly on 5 August 1988 at the age of 52.

V.N. Poletskov was born into a peasant family on 1 September 1935 in the village of Sosedka, Bashmakovskiy Rayon, Penza Oblast. He had been a member of the CPSU since 1965. [passage omitted]

Ye.K. Ligachev, V.I. Vorotnikov, V.P. Nikonov, V.S. Murakhovskiy, V.V. Bakatin, I.I. Skiba, Ye.I. Sizenko, A.I. Iyevlev, P.A. Paskar, L.B. Yermin, L.A. Gorshkov, A.A. Nikonov, A.F. Lyutenko, and A.Z. Grishanov.

Paper Scarcity Limiting Press Circulation

PM1608095588 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 11 Aug 88 Second Edition p 4

[Interview with G.G. Kudryavtsev, USSR first deputy minister of communications, by unnamed TASS correspondent: "Concerning the Subscriptions 'Boom': Interview at the USSR Ministry of Communications"; date not given—first three paragraphs are SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA introduction]

[Excerpt] How does one subscribe to an interesting publication? This problem, by all accounts, is one of the most acute today. The activeness of the mass media's stance in the campaign to implement our party's line on revolutionary restructuring has aroused heightened interest in the periodical press and continues to do so now after the 19th all-union party conference and the CPSU Central Committee July (1988) Plenum. Judging from the first days of the subscriptions campaign, however, not all of those who wish to will be able to satisfy that interest, unfortunately.

What is being done to take the fullest possible account of Soviet people's reading interests in 1989 and to enable them to receive the newspapers and journals whose content particularly appeals to them?

Your TASS correspondent talked about this with G.G. Kudryavtsev, USSR first deputy minister of communications.

[Correspondent] Gennadiy Georgiyevich, first of all, could you tell us about the dynamics of the increase in readers' interest in the past 3 years?

[Kudryavtsev] Yes, you are right, the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum distinctively marked the beginning of the sharp increase in the Soviet people's demand for periodicals. Beginning in 1985 the total number of copies of newspapers and magazines printed per issue has been increasing by approximately 20 million copies virtually each year. In comparison with 1985, the total print per issue of periodicals has increased by 62.4 million copies in 1988. Each family now gets around 7 publications on subscription and through retail.

There has been a sharp increase in the volume of production of PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and SOVETSKAYA KULTURA. A number of new newspaper-type publications and journals have appeared—SEMYA, VETERAN, EKHO PLANETY, and others.

Subscriptions to all literary and artistic journals have increased. The print run of DRUZHBY NARODOV has increased 600 percent, NOVYY MIR has risen by 140 percent, and ZNAMYA 120 percent.

There has also been a substantial increase in the circulation of sociopolitical publications: ARGUMENTY I FAKTY has risen by 6 million copies, RABOTNITSA by 2.3 million, and KRESTYANKA by 1.6 million.

[Correspondent] Undoubtedly there are quite a few interesting publications. Many people complain that they do not have time to read everything. Nevertheless, they try to subscribe to as many publications as possible. What is going on here; what is your opinion?

[Kudryavtsev] Most of us do not want to miss anything of interest. That is why people now prefer to take out home subscriptions to the many newspapers and magazines which they like. It is easier that way. That is how the subscription "boom" gradually began.

[Correspondent] What is needed to satisfy the increased demand?

[Kudryavtsev] Specialists have analyzed the situation created by the rapid increase in the circulation of a number of popular periodicals and thoroughly studied readers' tastes. This is based on figures since 1 January. After all, the editorial offices of a number of substantial journals were vigorously advertising their year's creative plans after the end of the subscription campaign. After studying those plans tens of thousands of readers decided to take out a subscription in the second month, February. When we compared the growth rate of this subscription "boom" with the paper stocks in the country we concluded that there was not enough paper to continue increasing the print runs of a number of newspapers and journals.

Today all papermaking enterprises are working to full capacity. The situation is also complicated by the fact that the pulp and paper combines systematically fail to meet the plans for the production of printing paper.

Another factor is that a number of pulp and paper enterprises are polluting the environment. That was why the Priozersk and Lyaskelya paper pulp plants have been closed down in recent years as have the paper pulp production units at the Ingur and Okulovskiy pulp and paper combines. The Baykal pulp and paper combine must be redesignated. Equipment at the Balakhna, Kondopoga, and Solikamsk pulp and paper combines is being modernized. These objective reasons do not allow paper production to be increased in 1989.

We, of course, want to fully satisfy subscribers' demand but the prevailing situation with paper resources prevents us from so doing.

At the request of a number of publishing houses subscriptions to 13 publications, including the magazines DRUZHBY NARODOV, MOSKVA, NOVYY MIR, PRIUSADEBNOYE KHOZYAYSTVO, OBSHCHESTVENNOYE PITANIYE, ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, NEVA, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, and others, have already closed because the print runs for this year are fully allocated.

In view of the unrestricted [svobodnaya] subscription for virtually all periodicals in 1989 it cannot be ruled out that as publishing houses' paper stocks for 1989 diminish it will be necessary to halt subscriptions to particular publications.

[Correspondent] What are the general trends of this year's subscription campaign?

[Kudryavtsev] It must be said that the print runs of all periodicals are remaining at the 1988 level. The 41 publications in increased demand are distributed within the limits of the print runs allocated by the publishing houses but also not below the 1988 level. The bulk of the print run of those publications is used to meet subscriptions in the labor collectives of enterprises and organizations and therefore their number in local post offices is somewhat reduced.

In view of the shortage, the distribution of those publications in the collectives of enterprises and organizations with the involvement of the public creates the conditions to ensure greater social justice. **But I should like to point out that there are no restrictions on subscriptions to**

PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, the newspapers in greatest demand. That also apples to a number of party journals. [boldface as published] [passage omitted].

Criminal Charges Brought Over 1987 Train Crash

LD1508171588 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] The USSR Procurator's Office has completed the investigation of the case of the collision of trains at Kamenskaya railway station near Rostov-on-Don. Today the case has been handed over to the RSFSR Supreme Court for examination. As we have already reported, on 7 August last year at Kamenskaya station a triple-section electric locomotive crashed into the stationary Rostov-Moscow passenger train. As a result, 106 people were killed and 24 injured. A government commission was set up. Experts from the Ministry of Railways and investigation agencies worked on it.

The experts came to the conclusion that the crash occurred as a result of faults in the goods train's brakes. The defects should have been detected and eliminated at Likhaya station, but this had not been done. Inspector-repair men Trusov and Puzanov had criminal proceedings taken against them. They were charged with violating the safety regulations on traffic and operation of transport under Article 85, Part 1 of the RSFSR criminal code. In this instance, a punishment of from 3 to 15 years' imprisonment is envisaged. In the near future these persons will stand trial.

Economic

Machine-Building Industry's Silayev Interviewed

LD1508103788 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1400 GMT on 14 August carries its "Party Conference" program, which this week is titled "The Machine-Building Complex: Problems and Prospects." The program consists of a 28-minute interview with Ivan Stepanovich Silayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Bureau for Machine Building, by correspondent Aleksandr Belotserkovets.

Silayev says: "We have succeeded in reaching a deep understanding of all of the problems facing the machine-building sector. We have succeeded in understanding by what methods, means, and ways the machine-building sector has to address its problems. This is not enough, of course. Something has to be done physically to succeed. If we are to take the last 5-year period, 3.5-4 percent output was updated annually; last year we reached the level of 9 percent. We expect that the level this year will not be lower. I would remind you that the figure in 1990 will be 13 percent, and we consider this to be realistic from today's standpoint."

Silayev says that last year the quality of 40 percent of the major output of the machine-building industry was up to international standards. But he adds: "There are no grounds for saying that we have progressed very far with regard to quality as a whole, even though such harsh measures as introducing state acceptance have played a role."

Silayev says it was previously planned to allocate 8 percent of capital investments to scientific development in the industry, but today it is clear that this sum should be at least 12 to 13 percent and the amount of scientific research and design work should be doubled or tripled. He emphasized the need to change the relations between equipment suppliers and builders and engineers to put an end to the frequent delays in major projects.

Silayev notes that more inventiveness is needed to develop more efficient machines and that costs must be cut. Further, technology, particularly in the car industry, must be updated.

Belotserkovets suggests that the output of a machine-building complex be advertised on the radio and Silayev agrees. Silayev also expresses admiration for the progress made in improving efficiency by means of team- and lease- contracting. He says that there is a need for boldness and risk-taking, and that workers must embrace innovation enthusiastically, including new methods such as cooperatives.

Agricultural

Nikolayev, Orel Grain Farmers Pass Plan Target

PM1508112588 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Aug 88 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS reports under general heading: "Grain for the State"]

[Text] Nikolayev—Farmers in Nikolayev Oblast have fulfilled the plan for grain sales to the state. Against the year's target of 1.07 million metric tons, a total of 1,072,000 metric tons of grain have been poured into the state granaries. Nine rayons have sold grain to the state in excess of the plan.

Orel—Grain in excess of the plan has been sent from the fields of the southern non-Chernozem zone. Farmers in Orel Oblast have dispatched 0.5 million metric tons of select wheat, rye, and barley to the state granaries. They have thereby fulfilled their socialist pledges.

Agricultural Developments for 13-15 Aug

LD1608003088 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 13-15 August. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

13 August:

In Omsk Oblast more than 200,000 hectares have been sown to winter crops. (1100)

The feed procurers of Ryazan Oblast have laid in as of today 1 million metric tons of corn silage. In total 200,000 hectares are occupied by silage crops. (1100)

In Sibirskaya Niva, winter wheat from the selection of the local scientific and production association Kolos, in Omsk Oblast, has surpassed all yield records. Its yield of almost 71 quintals per hectare is almost fantastic in Siberian conditions. (1300)

14 August:

Machine operators in Kazakhstan have brought in grain crops from more than 4 million hectares. The grain crops harvest is virtually complete in Chimkent and Dzhambul Oblasts. After-harvest sowing, autumn plowing, and sowing of winter crops for green dressing are in progress on the land, which has been cleared there. Harvesting is in progress in the eastern and western oblasts and is beginning in the virgin lands. The republic's sovkhozes and kolkhozes have to harvest grain from 23.5 million hectares altogether. (0204)

The Karachayevo-Cherkessk agro-industrial committee has fulfilled the state order for grain sales to the state, delivering more than 30,000 metric tons to procurement stations, 5,000 more than planned. A considerable proportion is wheat of the strong and hard varieties. The Prikubanskiy, Adyge-Khablskiy, and Zelenchuksiy Rayon farmers worked best of all. (1000)

This year at individual farms and even rayons in Saratoy Oblast 30 quintals of winter grain crops—rye and wheat—per hectare were harvested. (1300)

Rostov farmers have now sent almost 3 million tonnes of grain to the elevators. (1400)

Rostov Oblast agricultural workers have ended the grain harvest on an area of more than 2,600,000 hectares. Don agricultural workers have already sold to the state more than 2,700,000 metric tons of grain. (1500)

15 August:

Over 600,000 metric tons of grain, two-thirds of the plan commitment, have been supplied to grain enterprises in Tambov Oblast. (0204)

In Ryazan Oblast early autumn plowing has been carried out on 150,000 hectares. (0600)

Farms in Belgorod Oblast have started mass harvesting of groats. Harvesting of early grain crops is also coming to an end in the oblast, where 14 rayons have already fulfilled the plan for grain sales to the state. Over 730,000 metric tons of it have been supplied to the reception points. (1100)

Scientific

Deputies See 'Critical' Science, Technology Lag

LD1508095688 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 15 Aug 88

[Text] Unfortunately, we still often hear news that does not please us. For example, this is what they talked about at a routine session of the commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet on science and technology, where the work of the USSR State Committee for Computer Technology and Information Science, set up 21 years ago, was discussed: The deputies came to the conclusion that our country's lagging behind the world standard in the production and use of computer technology has reached a critical level. Electronic machines are an indispensable part of power engineering, machine-building, and other sectors of industry; they should be used everywhere. For instance, electronic communication has already become customary abroad in management, the services sector, and everyday life. Through it, people living in different continents have joint dealings, exchange information, and solve complex tasks together.

The calamity is that our planning organs cannot part at all from gross indicators. Financially, our plans for electronics are being fulfilled, in a manner of speaking, but in terms of the range of goods, it is a total catastrophe. These details do not improve matters, either: The problem of the quality of production is not being actively addressed in any way in the electronics industry; workers in the chemical industry are not in any hurry to provide ultrapure materials—incidentally, they themselves are in great need of modern computers—the Ministry of Finance is not permitting electronomics workers to use gold, but appliances will not function without it; builders are also contributing their 2 cents—at the speed they are putting up buildings for new enterprises, we will not even see production from those works by the beginning of the next century; and the State Committee for Computer Technology and Information Science does not have any financial levers to manage highly important work, for they are scattered among various ministries.

Obviously, it is expedient to examine the issue of setting up a national economic complex that will unite the sectors and implement a unified scientific and technical policy.

IZVESTIYA reports today on the session of the commissions of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Prospects for 'Phobos' Project, Mars Study Viewed

OW1608045188 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0600 GMT 5 Aug 88

[Article by station reporter Vorobyev from the "Magazine of Science and Technology" program: "The'Phobos' Project and the Prospects of Mars Study"]

[Text] "Phobos-1" and "Phobos-2," the two interplanetary stations launched by the Soviet Union in July, are continuing their flight toward Mars. A comprehensive study of this planet and its satellite will begin 200 days after the launch. The study will be implemented on the basis of broad international cooperation. Experts expect it to culminate in man's landing on Mars in the early 21st century.

In the 1960's and 1970's, many secrets of Mars were unveiled as a result of interplanetary study by the Mars automatic station of the Soviet Union and by the "Voyager" and "Viking" missions of the United States. There were some disappointments.

On this planet that resembles Earth, there was no clear sign of life, although our novels have been filled with descriptions of life on Mars. There was no water on its surface, and the atmospheric density was low. The assumption that there was an artificial canal on Mars was also left unsubstantiated. However, no final conclusions have yet been drawn. What will be the ultimate outcome?

Balebanov, deputy director of the Institute for Space Research of the USSR Academy of Sciences, said in a talk: In 1994, we plan to launch two more interplanetary stations to Mars. Two medium-sized modules will land on Mars for detailed research; they will send balloons into the Martian atmosphere. The Martian modules will move about in a 100-km area around its point of landing. They will help in the study of Martian rocks. This will be another decisive stage of study pending the next project scheduled for the end of this century, when Martian rocks will be sent back to Earth for analyses in our laboratories.

Taking a look into the 21st century, scientists are discussing the possibility of man's adventure to Mars, which will materialize between the years 2005 to 2025, although estimates vary. Views also vary regarding the method of flight. Some people think the rocket should fly directly to Mars instead of going through an intermediate stage. This requires very complicated technology that can be developed only in the next century. Another project can be realized on the basis of technical designs that have already been tested. Under this project, a flight crew will depart from an Earth orbital station for Mars. A space station orbiting Mars will be used as a base for traveling to and from Mars. Cosmonauts will make a return flight to Earth from the Mars orbital station.

According to estimates, about $50-100 billion is needed to accomplish this flight. This is a considerable sum indeed, but consider a report by the ASSOCIATED PRESS of the United States. It cites latest Pentagon official information as saying that the first-stage defense project of SDI alone will cost $100 billion, equivalent to the amount needed for man's flight to Mars.

Thus, a question is now placed before mankind. On the one hand, there is man's flight to Mars, and on the other there is SDI. Man's desire for peace will decide which choice to make. No planet other than Mars has aroused such intense enthusiasm from experts, mainly because scientists do not exclude the existence of the simplest form of life on Mars.

Military

Yazov Addresses Military Scientists

PM1308213788 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Aug 88 First Edition pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Increasing the Return From Military Science"—boldface as published]

[Text] The 19th all-union party conference cited military science among the chief components for ensuring the efficiency of our defense organizational development by primarily qualitatative parameters. The paths for the practical implementation of the conference's fundamental political guideline and of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee July (1988) Plenum, as well as specific measures to enhance the contribution of military science to the qualitative improvement of the Armed Forces, were examined at a conference of leading scientists and heads of scientific research and experimental establishments and military academies. The conference took place in the Ministry of Defense.

A report was delivered at the conference by Army General V.M. Shabanov, USSR deputy defense minister for armaments. Taking part in the discussion of the report were Admiral of the Fleet A.I. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Vice Admiral M.M. Budayev; Lieutenant General L.I. Volkov; Lieutenant General B.V. Zamyshlyayev; Colonel V.V. Panov; Lieutenant General V.G. Reznichenko; Colonel General V.K. Strelnikov; Lieutenant General of Aviation G.S. Shonin; and other comrades. The results of the conference were summed up by Army General D.T. Yazov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister.

The CPSU Central Committee July Plenum's guideline—to act, and to act decisively, to step up exactingness in order to solve the pratical issues which are assuming an even more acute political character—applies fully to military cadres, including those who labor in the sphere of military science and the technical equipping of the Army and Navy. On the basis of a self-critical and exacting assessment of the real state of affairs, it is important to bring to light everything that is impeding movement forward and to create and introduce into work effective mechanisms to accelerate and intensify military science.

It was stated in the report and in the speeches at the conference that in the course of restructuring, which is encompassing more and more fully the various spheres of Armed Forces life, concrete practical measures have been carried out to improve the activity and perfect the structure of the network of scientific-research and experimental establishments. Certain results have been achieved. However, various kinds of stagnation phenomena are still frequently making themselves felt and these are hampering properly productive work. These are, primarily: formal bureaucratic methods of leadership, leveling, lack of personal responsibility, parasitical tendencies, a loss of initiative by some cadres at scientific establishments, and a loss of desire to achieve real results in scientific activity. In a number of establishments irresponsibility and lack of principle have become widespread and certain employees have grown accustomed to not working at full capacity.

All these negative phenomena are interwoven and are hampering restructuring. Their emergence and existence are linked with perfectly specific causes and have their own perfectly specific vehicles. In the time of stagnation, the erosion in responsibility for each assigned sector of work became so deep-rooted that even today attempts are being made to present matters as if everyone is responsible for shortcomings but no one specifically. Naturally, with such an approach there cannot be any talk of the quality of scientific activity or of its tangible results. Without decisively breaking with the mechanisms of retardation and overcoming the negative phenomena, it is impossible to really enhance the standard of scientific research or the efficiency and fruitfulness of the work of scientific establishments. Neither is it possible to improve, on the whole, the qualitative indicators of military science and increase its return in the interests of improving the Armed Forces' combat capability.

Considerable scientific and technical potential has been created here. The task, as noted at the conference, is to proceed by setting our sights on qualitative indicators and to secure the fullest mobilization and best utilization of this potential with the aid of organizational, economic, and social factors; to establish order, enhance responsibility and discipline, and secure the zealous and truly proprietorial use of available means and resources,

The practice that became quite widespread in past years—whereby from purely localistic, short-term, and sometimes simply careerist considerations the road to what was new was blocked; scientific developments proceeded along a well-trodden path and amounted, in essence, to duplicating what had already been created and gone through; and whereby new and nontraditional solutions in the development of armaments and military hardware were not sought—has nothing in common with such an approach. As a consequence of that practice, flaws occurred in determining the prospects for developing armaments, in the orperational-tactical substantiation of particular models, and in ensuring that their quality and reliability conformed with modern requirements. Research frequently was not coordinated with the solution of pressing practical tasks. The results of scientific and technical progress and of pure research, and the latest achievements, discoveries, and inventions were introduced only slowly. The comprehensiveness of research was not ensured, and the real production, technological, and economic potentials of industry were not taken sufficiently into account.

The substantially reduced standard of organizational and scientific-methodological leadership of the activity of scientific-research establishmnents also took its toll on the quality of scientific work. A negative role was played by serious flaws in planning. One cannot work unsystematically in science. Nevertheless, a situation frequently took shape in which plans under development existed as if they were completely isolated, were not coordinated with the tasks of the troops and naval forces, and did not exert any definite influence on the development of equipment and armaments. A lag was allowed to occur in the development and improvement of the experimental and testing resources of a number of research and experimental establishments.

The formal bureaucratic approach to the **selection, deployment, and training of scientific cadres** which was manifested in many instances could not fail to be reflected in the actual level of useful returns from military science. As a result of favoritism, untalented people, totally alien to science, began to penetrate the scientific world, and their sole concern was to obtain as much as possible while giving nothing in return. In essence this is the force which is holding back the development of military science, not only by dint of people's own inability to produce anything new, valuable, or useful, but also because mediocrity can exist comfortably only by pulling everyone and everything down to its own level and reducing, by hook or by crook, really creative natures and talents to its own common denominator.

Therefore, one of the prime conditions for improving the qualitative indicators of military science is to purge it of all accretions, to restructure internal relations within it, to create an atmopshere of glasnost, openness, and freedom of creativity and debate, and of businesslike criticism and self-criticism. Of course, it is not a question of fruitless discussions, of empty talk which sometimes supplants real work, but of constructive, committed scientific dialogue geared to the attainment of specific results.

Life confirms the pressing demands for the improvement of our military-scientific potential on the basis of the all-embracing democratization of the situation in military science, overcoming bureaucratism and administration by injunction, secret cliquishness, and favoritism. Only this path provides room for the maximal display of talents, creative initiative, self-management, equitable rivalry, and the competition of scientific ideas and opinions.

Scientific cadres and the scientific-research establishments of the Defense Ministry bear a considerable share of the responsibility for validating the most expedient avenues of defense organizational development along the same path as the consistent line of our party toward the reduction of arms and armed forces on a reciprocal basis, the strict observance of the provisions of Soviet defense doctrine, and the guaranteeing of reliable security for the Soviet state and its allies.

Of fundamental significance is the simple definition and consistent practical application of the **basic criterion** for assessing the work of a scientific-research establishment, or scientific worker—the concrete scientific results which they acheieve. This idea was a recurrent theme throughout the conference. We are talking precisely about results which find embodiment in the enhancement of the quality of armaments and equipment, and not the number of pieces of scientific research which are being, or have been fulfilled. An urgent need to be guided by such a criterion arises from the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference, and of the CPSU Central Committee July Plenum at which it was stressed that the time has now come for action, for specific deeds—a time for increased responsibility for the results of one's labor.

In essence all the speakers at the conference spoke of the tremendous significance that the purposeful, well thought out training of young scientific cadres has for boosting military science. This work must be organized taking into account the specific features of the Defense Ministry's scientific-research and experimental establishments, primarily on the basis of the top military educational establishments. It is necessary to seek out and carefully nurture gifted and inquiring scientists. Here it is important to ensure the continuity of the generations and make careful use of accumulated experience, to sensibly combine young cadres with experienced ones, and not to permit the squandering of our intellectual potential. There must obviously be an acceleration of the work to create, at scientific-research establishments and military educational establishments, a system for training doctors of sciences and for expanding the network of internal training systems for advanced military students, and to pay constant attention to bringing topics of reserach more closely into line with the actual practical tasks of the Armed Forces. An end must be put to the fallacious practice of defending dissertations on useless topics which are devoid of any real, relevant substance. It is no secret that certain dissertation works find no application at all, and no one ever makes any use of them.

Serious attention was devoted at the conference to the active use of the potential of **science as studied at military educational establishments**. It is important to enlist more broadly the scientific cadres of military educational establishments for the implementation of scientific-research and experimental work on military-theory and military-technical topics. It is essential to make skillful use of the pedagogic experience and knowledge of military academies' professors and instructors in resolving the problem of training specialists for scientific-research establishments.

It is difficult to count on serious success in the matter of intensifying military science and of enhancing its quality without improving **the resources for experimental and testing work**. Persistent and specific work is needed to introduce mathematical methods and modeling into the work of scientific establishments, to improve the provision of test areas with everything essential for ensuring a high scientific and technical standard, to expand on-ground tests, and to reduce the time required for the completion and adoption of promising models, complexes, and systems of armaments. Here it is important to improve the coordination of efforts and ensure the comprehensiveness of testing, and not to permit departmentalism, which disunites and fragments efforts and resources and sharply reduces work efficiency. The bringing into play of quality reserves will be helped by a constant and enterprising search for new ways of strengthening cooperation between scientific-research establishments and industry.

Under no circumstances must our scientific establishments and military scientists lose sight of the main objective—**ensuring the high quality and reliability of armaments and military hardware**. Proceeding from this premise, it is essential to strive persistently and unswervingly to achieve high quality in testing so that with the minimum number of tests, one can attain the maximum practical results and exhaustive assessments of the whole spectrum of parameters that will make it possible to make a decision about the fate of a model or series of armaments.

In enhancing the return from military science, much depends on the standard of scientific and professional training, and the competence of its organizers, **the heads of scientific establishments**. It is they, above all, who are obliged to give thought to how to ensure the best possible use of effort and resources and of the creative potential of scientific collectives so as to achieve high-quality results. At the present time their rights have been considerably expanded and their independence has been increased as regards determining the structure of scientific subdivisions within the confines of the stipulated numbers, in forming and distributing the bonus fund, and in a number of other questions. Unfortunately, some heads of scientific research establishments do not make use of these rights; they work in the old manner because they are ignorant of the new documents which define activity under conditions of restructuring. The new methods of work and the ability to exercise leadership efficiently in an atmosphere of glasnost and democracy are also a science which has to be mastered in practice.

In particular this applies to the organization of businesslike interaction and creative cooperation between scientific establishments. Sometimes scientific collectives work for years in allied fields and on solving one and the same problem but, as a consequence of personal ambitions and of unfounded and unnecessary claims to priority, they cannot overcome the artificially created barriers, cooperate in their work, and achieve real results in the shortest possible time. The imperative of the times is to overcome disjunction of this kind and to subordinate every effort to the improvement of the Armed Forces.

A considerable enhancement of quality could be provided by **the improvement of organization, assiduity, and military order** in scientific research establishments. Such order is permeated by a spirit of collectivism and comradeship, respect for the dignity of the individual, and genuine democratism. It rules out self-will, irresponsibility, and dissoluteness, and provides favorable preconditions for the creation of a really creative atmosphere. In this field the thwarting of plans and pledges and of the requirements of contractual, technological, and financial discipline are especially inadmissible. The enhancement of the efficiency of military science and of the productiveness of work in scientific-research establishments is served by **the strengthening of their living links with the troops**. Day-to-day practical work of the troops and of the Navy is a kind of tuning fork by which the correctness of the direction taken by scientific research, and by which the true value of the results obtained, can be checked. The entire activity of the scientific-research establishments must be permeated by a desire to work better in the interests of the troops and the naval forces. Of course, a precise, substantiated program of scientific work directly in the staffs, formations, units, and ships is essential, as is a precise statement and elaboration of the questions which require research.

Figuratively speaking, science must have its roots embedded in practice and grow out of practice. Only then can science bear fruit. The transition of scientific-research establishments and experimental establishments to **economic accountability and self-financing** can contribute a great deal to solving the tasks of enhancing the fruitfulness of military science and improving its qualitative indicators. But the problems connected with the practical implementation of such a transition require serious, thoughtful study, a study of the experience of the scientific research establishments of industry, of higher education, and of the USSR Academy of Sciences in this field.

In the course of restructuring definite improvements have been achieved in enhancing the effectiveness **of the work of the political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations** of scientific-research establishments. On the whole, party-political work, as was noted at the conference, has begun to harness itself better with scientific work. The orientation toward qualitative indicators requires the further buildup of efforts to galvanize the human factor, the consolidation of a healthy political and moral climate in the scientific collectives, the enhancement of the ideological tempering of scientific cadres, and the study of people's moods and reaction to them. Much remains to be done to restructure intraparty life and, above all, to ensure due exactingness toward Communists for the results of their work and personal responsibility for the sector assigned to them. An important role in the democratization of the situation in military science, in asserting the principles of social justice, and in ensuring scope for initiative and creativity is to be played by the upcoming reports and elections in the party organizations and by an attentive attitude toward all critical observations and proposals made by Communists.

Among the indispensable conditions for enhancing the qualitative indicators of the activity of scientific establishments and cadres is the solution of the questions of **social and cultural life**. Many tight spots still persist here. In order to eliminate them, specific, painstaking work and initiative by the heads and collectives of scientific establishments, the correct use of available resources, the active participation by the public, and close cooperation with local party and soviet organs are essential.

It was stressed at the conference that the times require that we **decisively accelerate and deepen restructuring**. Nationwide work to implement plans for the revolutionary renovation of our society and to accelerate its socioeconomic development needs to be reliably protected. Despite the fact that a start has been made on the positive processes in the military-political situation, there are no guarantees yet of their irreversibility. The imperialist reaction has not abandoned its plans to disrupt strategic parity and to achieve superiority over the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact. The USSR understandably cannot and will not permit that. In seeking the mutual reduction of the levels of confrontation while observing the principles of reciprocity, equality, and identical security for the sides, and acting within the framwework of a defensive military doctrine, the CPSU and Soviet state will continue constantly to take pains to ensure favorable peaceful conditions for the creative labor of the Soviet people.

The qualitative improvement of the Armed Forces is subordinated to this task. It is impossible to solve it without science. Therefore, an acceleration of restructuring and the attainment of real practical results on a broad scale are required of the scientific-research establishments and higher educational establishments. This presupposes the stepping up of the quest for new methods and means of armed struggle, the relentless improvement of scientific substantiation, the elaboration of ways to enhance military efficiency and the quality and reliablity of armanents and military hardware, the reduction of time necessary to develop and test them, and the creation of the necessary scientific and technical groundwork for the long term.

In devising measures whose implementation will ensure the improvement of the Army and Navy, military science must have its own opinion—valid, principled, and firm—and it must articulate it and defend it. True science cannot be unprincipled. It is capable of developing only on a principled basis, creatively processing accumulated experience, absorbing the advanced achievements of theory and practice, and having a clear perspective that stems from the objective course of social development.

A decisive turn by scientific establishments and cadres of the Armed Forces toward the acquisition of practical results, the intensification of exacting demands on specific persons for specific work, effective monitoring of the implementation of decisions made, and the deepening of the processes of democratization and glasnost in military science—all this will guarantee an increase in its contribution to the achievement of a new qualitiative condition of the Armed Forces.

Military Construction Workers Honored

PM1608085388 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 88 First Edition p 5

["Our correspondent" report: "In Honor of Construction Worker's Day"]

[Text] A ceremonial meeting devoted to Construction Worker's Day was held in the M.V. Frunze Central House of the Soviet Army on 11 August.

In the presidium were Army General P. Lushev, USSR first deputy defense minister; Army General Ye. Ivanovskiy, commander in chief of the Ground Forces and USSR deputy defense minister; Army General V. Arkhipov, USSR deputy defense minister and chief of the USSR Armed Forces Rear Services; Marshal of Engineer Troops N. Shestopalov, USSR deputy defense minister for construction and billeting of troops; L. Suslov, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Construction Department; Fleet Admiral A. Sorokin, first deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; Admiral I. Kapitanets, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy; A. Yakovlev, chairman of the Construction and Construction Materials Industry Workers' Trade Union Central Committee; and generals, admirals, officers, and production front-runners.

The ceremony was opened by Colonel General N. Kovalenko, chief of the Political Directorate of the military construction units.

The military construction workers were greeted by M. Konstantinov, leader of a comprehensive construction and installation team at the Moscow City Main Administration for Housing and Civil Construction; S. Shitikova, secretary of the Komsomol organization of the No 304 Construction Administration of the No 1 Moscow State Electrical Wiring Work Trust; and twice Hero of the Soviet Union USSR Pilot-Cosmonaut Major General of Aviation P. Popovich.

The meeting was addressed by Marshal of Engineer Troops N. Shestopalov.

Yazov 'Order of Day'

PM1608093988 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Aug 88 First Edition p 1

["USSR Defense Minister's Order of the Day No 278," dated Moscow, 14 August 1988]

[Text] Comrade military construction workers and military railroad workers, veterans of military construction!

Today the Soviet people and their Armed Forces are celebrating Construction Worker's Day.

Military construction workers and railroad troops are greeting their professional holiday amid an atmosphere of fundamental renewal of all spheres of Soviet society and the practical fulfillment of the decisions of the 19th all-union party conference and the tasks put forward by the CPSU Central Committee July Plenum.

Positive processes are gathering momentum in military and labor collectives, an atmosphere of demandingness, professionalism, and intolerance of shortcomings is being asserted, and the activeness of military construction workers and railroad troops in ensuring quality capital construction and strengthening organization and discipline is growing. Military construction workers and military railroad workers have fulfilled the targets for the first 6 months of 1988 in terms of the main production and economic indicators and have made a worthy contribution to improving the USSR Armed Forces' combat readiness and to strengthening the motherland's defense potential.

Taking account of the party's new demands for the country's defense and for the improvement of the Armed Forces' combat might, military construction unit personnel and railroad troops must restructure the economic mechanism more purposefully, switch construction organizations and enterprises to full economic accountability and self-financing, assimilate new progressive forms of labor organization more resolutely, and struggle for high output quality and savings of material and technical resources.

I greet and congratulate you on your holiday—Construction Workers Day!

I wish military construction workers, railroad troops, and veterans of military construction good health and further successes in fulfilling state plans, improving their professional skills, and strengthening military and labor discipline.

Army General D. Yazov, USSR defense minister